
Laws
of the
University Philosophical Society



Prefatory Note

On the 27th of September, 2012, by resolution of the University Philosophical Society (on the motion of MR GLEN ROGERS, H.M.C., EX-HONORARY TREASURER, EX-M.C., as representative of the Council), a Committee was appointed to revise and codify the Society's Laws.

The Committee was empowered to seek submissions from Members in regard to the effective Laws, to update the Laws, to reform the Laws and introduce to the Laws practices of the Society that had thereto been excluded from mention with the Laws.

The Committee resolved that the Laws in force should be abandoned and used as a working point for this volume. The alterations adopted were extensive but, for the most part, not contentious. The Committee recommended, in line with advice and submissions received from the Council and Ordinary Members, that the Vice-Presidency should be created an Office of the Society in recognition of its development into a more senior and central role in recent Sessions. The Committee further recommended the codification of practices and traditions of the Society, both old and new, for the sake of posterity, such as the creation of the Council, the role of Honorary Members of Council and the Bram Stoker Club.

The following names were appended to the Committee's Report:–

ANDREW THORNBURY
Hon. Registrar, 328

GLEN ROGERS
H.M.C., 328
Hon. Treasurer, 327
M.C., 326

SARAH MORTELL
Vice-President, 328

BRENDAN O'NOLAN
S.M.C., 328
M.C., 327

PAUL BEHAN
MC, 328

SARAH GRACE
Ordinary Member

Table of Contents

	Prefatory Note
Chapter I	Fundamental Regulations
Chapter II	Constitution of the Society <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Honorary Membersb. Patronagec. The Senior Patronaged. The Honorary Patronagee. Ordinary Membersf. Life Members
Chapter III	Elections <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The Electoral Oversight Committeeb. Procedurec. Candidacy Requirementsd. On the Day of Electione. Procedure for Creation of the Councilf. Extraordinary Elections
Chapter IV	The Honorary President
Chapter V	The Honorary Secretary
Chapter VI	The Honorary Treasurer
Chapter VII	The Honorary Registrar
Chapter VIII	The Honorary Debates Convenor
Chapter IX	The Honorary Librarian
Chapter X	The Honorary Steward
Chapter XI	The Honorary Schools Convenor
Chapter XII	The Honorary Vice-President
Chapter XIII	The Senior Member of Council
Chapter XIV	The Council
Chapter XV	The Meetings of the Society <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Standing Orders for Private Businessb. Standing Orders for Public Businessc. Standing Orders for the Opening Meeting

	d. The Bram Stoker Club
Chapter XVI	Medals and Prizes of the Society
	a. Adjudication & Categories of Medal/Prize
	b. Composition
	c. Oratory
	d. Rules & Other Awards
Chapter XVII	Penalties

Chapter I Fundamental Regulations

1. The Society shall be called the University Philosophical Society, Trinity College, Dublin.
2. The Society shall be constituted by a Senior Patron, Patrons, Honorary Members, Ordinary Members, Life Members and the Council.
3. All those people who pay the annual subscription shall be Ordinary Members of the Society for the Session.
4. The Objects of the Society shall be to afford to its members opportunities of discussing Philosophical, Literary, Cultural, Political and Scientific subjects, to encourage the practice of Written Composition and Oral Debate and to provide general facilities for its members. This may include, upon the raising of standing orders, concerts and other meetings of a more general nature.
5. The Officers and Vice-President of any Session shall not be eligible for the Marked Thanks or the Thanks of the Society if fewer than ten Public Business Meetings have been held in that Session.
6. The management of the affairs of the Society shall be entrusted to the Council.
7. A Session of the Society shall begin at midnight on the day following the Final Private Business Meeting of the preceding Session and shall end at the adjournment of the Final Private Business Meeting of that Session.
8. At any ordinary meeting of the Society, a majority shall be binding in division unless provided; in the case of an equality of votes, the Chair shall have the casting vote in addition to his or her personal vote.
9. The Laws of the Society shall not be amended to nor altered save at a general meeting by motion on notice, and after the first reading, such alteration, until the division on its second reading, shall have precedence over all motions and resolutions requiring notice, and shall become absolute on the second reading. No amendment may be proposed on the second reading.

Chapter II Constitution of the Society

a. Honorary Members

1. The Society shall have the power to elect Honorary Members. The names of candidates for Honorary Membership shall be first submitted to the Council, and if approved by them, shall be formally proposed and seconded by motion open to discussion, and elected separately by either popular assent or by private ballot; the result of such an election shall not be valid unless at least twenty-one members vote. In the case of private ballot, a super-majority of two-thirds shall be necessary for such a motion to pass.
2. Present members of the University shall not be eligible for Honorary Membership unless they are of B.A. or equivalent standing, or the academic year in which they held office (including Honorary Member of Council) has elapsed.
3. Any person who has received the Marked Thanks of the Society shall be eligible for Honorary Membership without first obtaining the approval of the Council.
4. Members of the Oxford Union Society, the Cambridge Union Society, the Durham Union Society and the Edinburgh University Union shall be eligible for election to Honorary Membership, as shall be the members of the other University Unions with which the Society has membership arrangements.
5. Honorary Members shall have all the rights of Ordinary Members, without payment of the annual subscription, but shall not have the privilege of competing for any prizes of the Society, nor shall they be eligible for any of the Society's Offices, seats on Council, or membership of the electorate.
6. Honorary Members shall hold tenure for life, and shall be entitled to append the suffix "Hon. Mem." to their name in all matters before the Society and this shall take precedence over any other styles they are so entitled to hold.

b. Patronage

1. The Society shall have the power to elect Patrons. The names of candidates shall be first submitted by the President to the Council, and if approved by them, shall be formally proposed and seconded by motion open to discussion, and elected separately by ballot; the result of such an election shall not be valid unless at least twenty-one

members vote. A super-majority of two-thirds shall be necessary for such a motion to pass.

- 2 Patrons of the Society shall hold their positions for life or until the title is removed by motion on notice. A super-majority of two-thirds shall be necessary for such a motion to pass.
- 3 Patrons of the Society shall ordinarily be members of Irish society who have demonstrated loyalty to the Society through attendance at the Society's events or various other means.
- 4 The Patronage shall be an honorary position and thus there shall never be a fee associated with the award.

c. The Senior Patronage

- 1 The Senior Patron of the Society shall ordinarily be the Provost of Trinity College for the duration of his or her tenure as Provost.
- 2 The Provost will be invited to accept the Society's nomination to the Senior Patronage by the President of the Society upon his appointment as Provost, and upon acceptance the President shall duly inform the Council and the position shall be deemed occupied.
- 3 In the event of the Provost's declination of the nomination, the Council may elect a Senior Patron from among the Honorary Members or Patrons of the Society to hold the Senior Patronage until such time as a new Provost is elected.

d. The Honorary Patronage

- 1 The Honorary Patronage of the Society shall be awarded to individuals external to the Society who, in the view of the Council, have contributed exceptionally to their respective fields.
- 2 Recipients of the Society's Honorary Patronage shall be awarded a Medal, the grade of which shall be determined in line with Chapter XV.
- 3 The Society through the Council may award or rescind the award of Honorary Patronage at its discretion. Honorary Patrons shall ordinarily be appointed for life.

e. Ordinary Members

- 1 Ordinary Membership of the Society shall be limited to members of the College, including all full- and part-time students and staff.
- 2 All eligible members shall become members of the Society for the duration of the Session on the payment of the membership subscription. The Council may at their discretion offer the subscription as a four-year omnibus subscription to undergraduates of the College, or as a *pro rata* annual subscription.
- 3 A member who ceases to be eligible for membership shall continue to be a member until the close of the Session in question.

f. Life Members

- 1 Any person who has been a member of the Society may, subject to the approval of Council, become a Life Member upon payment of the Life Membership subscription fee.
- 2 Life Members shall have all the rights of Ordinary Members, but shall not have the privilege of competing for any prizes of the Society, nor shall they be eligible for any of the Society's Offices, seats on Council, or membership of the electorate; however, once appointed, shall hold membership for life.
- 3 Members of Council who have received the Thanks of the Society shall, at the discretion of the Council, be eligible for Life Membership without payment of the relevant subscription.
- 4 The subscription fee shall be determined from time to time by the Honorary Treasurer, subject to the approval of Council.

Chapter III Elections

a. The Electoral Oversight Committee

- 1 The Electoral Oversight Committee (“the Committee”) shall have full original and final appellate jurisdiction in any and all matters pertaining to elections to seats on the Council of the Society, and shall convene annually to govern and administer the annual General Election. The Committee shall be in all respects self-governing.
- 2 Membership of the Committee shall consist of all those Honorary Members of Council and Honorary Members of the Society who provide their names to the President by the fifth Thursday in Hilary Term as notice of acceptance of their seat on the Committee.
 - i Excepting the above criteria, the Council is empowered to appoint any person deemed fit by virtue of their expertise or experience to a position on the Committee.
 - ii Excepting the above criteria, the Committee is empowered to appoint any person deemed fit by virtue of their expertise or experience to a position on the Committee.
 - iii No person in occupancy of a seat on the incumbent Council, with the exclusion of Honorary Members of Council, shall be eligible for a position on the Committee notwithstanding the above provisions.
 - iv Members of the Committee who do not possess the rank of Honorary Member or Honorary Member of Council shall not hold voting privileges on the Committee.
- 3 The Committee shall of itself elect an Electoral Overseer who shall act as Chair of the Committee and the immediate point of contact for all electoral matters. The names of members of the Committee and their appointment of the Electoral Overseer shall be announced at the Private Business Meeting at which nominees for Officers and Seats on the Council are put on notice. The Electoral Overseer shall make an address to the Society on behalf of the Committee outlining the rules for Elections and other miscellaneous matters.
- 4 The Committee shall at its discretion elect an Enforcement Officer who will have specific responsibility for ensuring that Candidates standing for election conform to all electoral requirements, rules and regulations.
- 5 The Committee shall have use of the Society’s Rooms to carry out its work, where reasonable advance notice is provided to the President.

- 6 The Committee shall have an absolute power to disqualify, subject to internal appeal, any Candidate from standing for election on the grounds of one or more of the following:
 - i Failure to meet criteria for election, *ie* not fulfilling speaks requirements;
 - ii Gross misconduct, *ie* failure to obey electoral rules, *eg* canvassing;
 - iii Deceit, *ie* lying about a fact material to the election;
 - iv Contempt of the Society, *ie* causing ignominy to the reputation of the Society.
- 7 The Electoral Oversight Committee shall have general discretion regarding governance of the election, and responsibility for appointing tellers on the day of election.

b. Procedure

- 1 A general election to the Offices and Council of the Society shall be held in the final three weeks of Hilary Term, on a day nominated by the Electoral Oversight Committee.
- 2 The Electorate shall consist of all fully subscribed members of the Society in good standing, except those disqualified under these Laws.
- 3 Candidates for all Offices are to be elected by means of single transferable vote (STV). Candidates for seats on Council are to be elected by means of proportional representation by the single transferable vote (PR-STV). If, after these methods of separation of the candidates have been effected, there remains a tie for any Office or seat on Council, the election shall be determined by sortition.
- 4 Only one member may vote on a single ballot paper.
- 5 Each member shall sign his or her name inside the envelope in which he places his or her ballot to validate the ballot. Ballots cast in unsigned envelopes shall be discarded on a non-discretionary basis.
- 6 No member who is indebted to the Society may vote or be a candidate in any election.
- 7 No member shall be entitled to vote in an election unless he or she has attended no less than three meetings or external debating competitions during the Session in which the election takes place. The Council shall ensure that adequate records of attendance are maintained for the purposes of this provision. These records will constitute a definitive list of the Society's electorate.
 - i The Electoral Oversight Committee shall be empowered to hear appeals from members who assert they have been wrongfully excluded from the

electorate. The Electoral Oversight Committee's decision in such matters shall be final.

- ii This section shall not apply to an election which takes place prior to Reading Week in Michaelmas Term. In this case, the electorate shall consist of those members who were qualified to vote prior to the Final Meeting of the previous Session and members who did not attend the College in the previous year but fulfill the requirements nonetheless.

- 8 Every Officer and Ordinary Member of Council shall vacate his or her seat at the close of the Session. Officers may hold tenure in their Office for no more than one Session and shall thereafter be barred from participating in an election to that Office.
- 9 The Electoral Oversight Committee shall publish manifestoes on behalf of candidates for Office on the Society's notice board. Members intending to seek nomination for Office shall provide the text for manifestoes. The format of their publication shall not discriminate between candidates but in all other respects shall be a matter for the Electoral Oversight Committee.
- 10 The Electoral Overseer shall arrange an opportunity for candidates to make speeches to and/or answer questions from the ordinary members of the Society. The arrangements for such an event shall not discriminate between the candidates but in all other respects shall be a matter for the Electoral Oversight Committee.

i. The Officers' Conduct Report

- 1 Before the night of nominations, a sub-committee shall be created under privileged motion no. 8, chaired by the Honorary Vice-President, to inquire into the conduct of the Officers and Ordinary Members of Council during the Session (*ie* the Officers' Conduct Report).
- 2 There shall be no Officers on this committee save the Honorary Vice-President, and there shall be a maximum of three Ordinary Members of Council.
- 3 Honorary Members of Council shall be *ex officio* members of the sub-committee. Such Members shall be required to provide notice of their intention to sit on the sub-committee to the Honorary Vice-President prior to the first meeting of the sub-committee.
- 4 All submissions to the sub-committee shall take place *in camera*, and absolute confidentiality shall pertain to all its workings.

- 5 A member of the sub-committee other than the Chair shall receive the submissions and duly anonymise them prior to distribution to the sub-committee; and shall also compile the portion of the Report concerning the Honorary Vice-President.
- 6 This sub-committee shall report to the Society at the Final Private Business Meeting.
- 7 The Marked Thanks of the Society shall be awarded only to such Officers and Vice-President as the sub-committee shall declare to deserve them having received the advice of members, and the Thanks of the Society only to such Ordinary Members of Council as the sub-committee shall declare to deserve them, having received the advice of members. The quorum of the sub-committee shall be half of its nominal membership. The sub-committee may assert its power to elect a new member should one resign.

ii. Nominations

- 1 On the night of a meeting at least one week previous to the night upon which nominations will be received, the President shall announce the names of those persons constituting the Electoral Oversight Committee.
- 2 On the night of a meeting at least one week previous to the night upon which nominations will be received, the President shall:
 - i Announce that nominations will be received for all Offices and seats on Council for the next Session at the subsequent night of meeting, and
 - ii Invite the Electoral Overseer to state the rules concerning those members who are indebted by fine to the Society-
- 3 At least four days prior to the day of an election, the Honorary Treasurer shall publish a list of those members indebted to the Society. Members who have not settled their debts before the day of election will not be eligible to vote.
- 4 At least four days prior to the day of an election, all candidates for any Office or seat on Council shall be proposed and seconded at a Private Business Meeting. Upon completion of proposal and secondment of candidates, candidates for the Office of Honorary President shall be afforded an opportunity to address the Society for not more than four minutes. It should be noted that this is the only point at which any candidate may make appeals on behalf of their candidacy. All other forms of canvassing are expressly forbidden.
- 5 The Registrar shall at this stage cause each candidate to sign a statement prepared by the Electoral Oversight Committee prior to the election, which shall then be published on the notice board of the Society. In this statement, the candidate shall agree to abide by the regulations regarding the conduct of elections, in particular, the prohibition on

canvassing, under penalty to be determined by the election overseer or impeachment committee as per section 12 in case of a breach of the regulations. Any candidate who shall fail to sign this statement prior to the election shall be deemed ineligible to contest the election and be removed from the ballot.

c. Candidacy Requirements

- 1 To be eligible for election to any Office or seat on Council, a member must have been a member since the first day of January of that Session.
- 2 A nominee for election must have spoken on a motion at either a Private or Public Business Meeting no less than:
 - i Seven times for the office of the Honorary President;
 - ii Five times for the offices of the Honorary Secretary, the Honorary Treasurer, the Honorary Registrar and the Honorary Debates Convenor;
 - iii Three times for all other Offices;
 - iv Twice for the position of Ordinary Member of Council.
- 3 No more than one speech on a motion shall count as a speech for the purposes of election in any given week.
- 4 The delivery of a paper to a Public Business Meeting in the Chamber of the Society shall be the equivalent of two speeches.
- 5 The delivery of a paper to the Bram Stoker Club of the Society shall count as one speech.
- 6 Competitively speaking in all pre-break rounds at a recognised debating intervarsity shall count as one speech.
- 7 In addition to the speaking requirement for the Office of the Honorary Debates Convenor, a nominee must have spoken competitively at least three recognised Intersvarsity Competition to be eligible for election.

d. On the Day of Election

- 1 Tellers for the Election shall consist exclusively of members of the Electoral Oversight Committee or those so appointed by that Committee.
- 2 Candidates will not be permitted to enter the rooms where the election is taking place, save to cast their own vote. Each candidate for an Office may appoint one Scrutineer to act on his or her behalf on the day of the election.
- 3 The Registrar shall cause each teller and member of the Electoral Oversight Committee to sign a statement prior to the election, which shall then be published on the notice

board of the Society. In this statement, the teller shall agree to abide by the regulations regarding the conduct of elections, under penalty to be determined by the election overseer or impeachment committee as per section 12 in case of a breach of the regulations.

- 4 The Electoral Overseer shall draw up and cause to be printed the ballot papers prior to the election. The order in which the names of candidates will appear on the ballot papers shall alternate indiscriminately throughout the ballot papers.
- 5 On the day of election, at least two tellers as members of the Electoral Oversight Committee shall be present at all times to distribute a ballot paper upon request to any member of the electorate.
- 6 There shall be only one ballot box, to be located in the rooms of the Society. In all elections, the ballot shall open not later than 11am and close not earlier than 5.30pm on the day of the election.
- 7 An account shall be kept on the electoral list of those who have voted, as well as an account of the number of papers printed, distributed and placed in the ballot box, which later shall be recorded in the report presented by the Electoral Overseer. On the day of election, the Electoral Overseer shall publicly scrutinise these papers, and present to the Society a report declaring the above facts and the result at the next Private Business Meeting, which shall be the Final Private Business Meeting of the Session.
- 8 The Officers and Council shall be declared elected by the President upon the presentation of the Electoral Oversight Committee's report. At the Final Private Business Meeting, reports shall be taken as the last item of business, and all other reports shall take precedence over the Electoral Oversight Committee's report.
- 9 The Officers and Council shall enter into office in accordance with Section XVII of this Chapter, and shall hold office until the next Final Private Business Meeting.

e. Procedure for Creation of the Council

- 1 The President-Elect shall formally invite the Members-Elect of Council to join the Officers-Elect to form a Council for the forthcoming Session by convening Conclave immediately succeeding the election of the seventh Member-Elect of Council. Conclave will be chaired by the President-Elect.
- 2 Conclave shall be held *in camera* in the Society's Council Room. The incumbent Council is not permitted attendance at Conclave.

- 3 At Conclave, the Officers-Elect and Members-Elect of Council shall discuss the co-option of up to seven Members-Designate of Council. If, subsequent to the adjournment of Conclave, no Members-Designate of Council are so co-opted, the President-Elect shall proceed to Section 5.
- 4 Where Conclave votes to co-opt any number of further Members-Designate, the President-Elect shall temporarily leave Conclave and invite those individuals to join Conclave as Members-Designate of Council.
- 5 Subsequent to Conclave's determination on co-option of Members-Designate, the President shall invite the Officers to outline their roles and plans for the forthcoming Session to Conclave.
- 6 The Members-Elect and Members-Designate shall be invited to list by private ballot their preference(s) to join particular Offices of the Society. The Secretary-Elect shall administer these private ballots. The President-Elect shall at that stage declare Conclave adjourned and shall duly inform the incumbent Council that a Council-Elect has been successfully created.
- 7 Upon adjournment of Conclave, the President-Elect shall invite the Officers-Elect to a Meeting *in camera* in the Society's Council Room. At this Meeting, the Officers-Elect shall, with due regard to the preferences collected from the Members-Elect and Members-Designate, adjudicate on the responsibilities to be assigned to the Members-Elect and Members-Designate of Council, and/or their permanent assignment to specific Offices.
- 8 Upon conclusion of this Meeting, the Officers-Elect shall join the Members-Elect and Members-Designate together with the incumbent Council at the Stag's Head public house. The Officers-Elect will, in respect of their Offices, inform respective Members-Elect and Members-Designate of their assignments for the forthcoming Session.
- 9 It shall be the responsibility of the incumbent Registrar to inform the President-Elect of the procedure herein codified.
- 10 The Council-Elect, having declared itself, will be invited by the President to form a Council for the forthcoming Session at midnight at the Final Private Business Meeting of the incumbent Session.

f. Extraordinary Elections

- 1 On the night of a meeting following a casual vacancy on Council, the President shall announce that nominations for such vacancy will be received on the next night of meeting
- 2 The procedure from the general election shall be followed where practicable, with exceptions as the Electoral Oversight Committee considers justified.

Chapter IV The President

1. The President shall be the chief Officer of the Society, and shall, if present, take the chair at all meetings of the Society, except the Opening Meeting. The President may, with the approval of Council, appoint some other person to act as Chair.
2. The President shall deliver an address at the Opening Meeting of the Session. The President shall be responsible for arranging this meeting.
3. The President (or Chair) may at any time address the house from the chair; he shall not be marked for any paper or speech delivered from the chair. The Chair may appoint a substitute and leave the chair for the purpose of delivering a paper or a speech, and shall immediately resume it when this address is finished.
4. The President shall be the immediate interpreter of all questions relating to law and order. Such interpretations shall be recorded by the Registrar at the request of any member present, in a special book for that purpose, and shall be subject to the decision of Council.
5. The President shall have the power to impose fines for all breaches of order during the meeting of the Society, which shall then be recorded by the Treasurer in a special book for that purpose. Such a fine can be remitted by means of privileged motion no. 9 at any of the three Private Business Meetings following its announcement in the house. A fine can also be challenged directly after its announcement by saying "Challenge, Mr./Madam President". A division shall be taken on whether the fine should stand if six members present support such a challenge.

6. The President shall have the power to suspend a member for a specified period, not to exceed the conclusion of the meeting. The President may be fined for any abuse of this procedure at a subsequent Council meeting of that Session.
7. When any Officer is not present at a meeting, the President shall appoint a substitute to hold the Office until the arrival of such Officer, the substitute being a member of Council.
8. The President, with the approval of Council, may at any time request a member of Council to resign for stated misconduct in their duties.
9. If any Office shall become vacant, the President shall appoint a member of Council to hold the Office until the termination of such vacancy.
10. The President shall be responsible for promulgating and maintaining relations with the other Society.
11. The President shall carry on the general correspondence of the Society The President shall issue the Society's Press Releases and liaise with the Public Press.

Chapter V The Secretary

1. The Secretary shall convene the Public Business Meetings of the Society, and so normally obtain the papers to be read in Public Business, allot nights to the student essayists, and also to provide Speakers and Guests to reply. The Secretary shall also convene all debates which are not the responsibility of the Debates Convenor in a similar fashion. The Secretary shall be subject to the Council, and shall report regularly with regard to his or her work under this section.
2. The Secretary shall arrange the travel, accommodation and entertainment of guests of the Society. The Secretary shall also be responsible for the booking of Commons when appropriate.
3. The Secretary shall obtain and place upon the notice board of the Society a copy of the order paper forty-eight hours before the meeting.
4. The Secretary shall provide and maintain the stationery of the Society.
5. The Secretary shall give an account of the year's proceedings of the Society in report form to the Central Societies Committee of Trinity College, Dublin.
6. The Secretary shall distribute marking papers during the meetings of the Society.

Chapter VI The Treasurer

1. The Treasurer shall have overall responsibility for the proper administration of the Society's finances. No decision by the Council collectively, or the Officers, to expend monies shall be validly enforceable without the consent of both the Treasurer and President. No decision to expend monies shall be validly made enforceable without the consent of Council.
2. The Treasurer shall have overall responsibility for the seeking of financial assistance for the Society and its major Public Business Meetings.
3. The Treasurer shall receive the Subscriptions and Fines of members.
4. The Treasurer shall record the fines of members in a special book for that purpose. Such fines shall be dealt in accordance with Chapter XVII, Section 6.
5. The Treasurer shall keep an account of the sums received and expended, mentioning from whom received and how expended. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to have the accounts of the Society audited for the Session.
6. The Treasurer shall cause to be distributed to the Officers and Council an outline budget for the Session no later than the first week of academic teaching in the Michaelmas Term of that Session, which shall be discussed by Council.
7. The Treasurer shall draw up a report giving details of the Society's current financial position and estimates of income and expenditure for the remainder of the Session before the second week of Hilary Term. This report shall be discussed by Council.
8. The Treasurer shall always, when required to do so by Council, give a detailed account of the Society's finances.
9. All reports on financial matters which the Treasurer shall deliver are to be treated with the strictest confidence by Council.
10. The Treasurer shall be responsible for liaising with the Central Societies Committee with regard to the accounts of the Society.
11. The Treasurer shall pay into the bank nominated by Council all sums received on behalf of the Society.
12. The Treasurer shall repay all sums owed to the Society's members within one month of receiving receipts for such sums, unless exceptional circumstances prevent him from doing so.
13. The Treasurer shall have responsibility for all matters pertaining to the Society's Snooker Rooms and liaising in this regard with the Other Society.

Chapter VII The Registrar

1. The Registrar shall register in the Minutes Books of the Society all proceedings of the Society and Council, recording also the names of the Chairs. The Registrar shall record details of proceedings under the order of Private Business, as well as the names of all respondents and speakers and the results of all divisions and votes.
2. The Registrar shall keep in a book the Proceedings of the Society appearing in the Public Press.
3. The Registrar shall record in a book special to that purpose all amendments to the laws and rulings of the President pertaining to the same. The Registrar shall ensure that all such amendments and rulings are signed and dated by the President for that Session. The Registrar shall retain this book at all times and present it to his or her successor at the Final Private Business Meeting.
4. The Registrar shall ensure that all records and minutes books of the Society are kept in a secure manner.
5. The Registrar shall show the records of the Society and the manner of their preservation upon the request of any member of the Society at a Private Business Meeting. The Registrar shall perform this duty within one week of such a request being made.
6. The Registrar shall, subject to the control of the President, be responsible for maintaining an accurate list of the Honorary Members of the Society, with whom the Registrar shall communicate at least once during each Session to inform them of the activities of the Society.
7. The Registrar shall cause to be published in Michaelmas and Hilary terms a register of the Society's Ordinary Members, and allow the registration of any member who may have been omitted from this list.
8. The Registrar shall forward for publication the names of such members as shall obtain medals, certificates or Thanks from the Society, and also the names of Officers and Council annually elected.
9. The Registrar shall be responsible for the publication of the Laws of the Society. The Registrar shall ensure that all copies of the Laws in all media are accurate and are updated upon an amendment of the Laws.

Chapter VIII The Debates Convenor

1. The Debates Convenor shall be responsible for all matters relating to competitive debating.
2. The Debates Convenor shall organise the Society's debating competitions throughout the Session. The Debates Convenor shall convene any Public Business Meeting which forms a part of such a competition.
3. The Debates Convenor shall make arrangements for speakers representing the Society in external intervarsity debating competitions.
4. The Debates Convenor shall, in conjunction with the Other Society, convene in the same week an invitational debating competition, to be called “The Dean Swift Memorial”, and an intervarsity debating competition, to be called “The Claire Stewart Memorial”.

Chapter IX The Librarian

1. The Librarian shall ensure that adequate publicity, in the form of posters, leaflets and other media, be created for the events of the Society.
2. The Librarian shall generally supervise the safekeeping of old bits of string and the contents of his or her own pockets. It shall be his or her duty to ensure that all documents, objects and relics in the possession of the society are kept in a secure manner.
3. The Librarian shall supervise Question Time in Private Business.
4. The Librarian shall be responsible for the publications of the Society.

Chapter X The Steward

1. The Steward shall be responsible for the provision of refreshments to members.

2. The Steward shall be responsible for the signing out of rooms of the Society and keeping a record of same.
3. The Steward shall be responsible for the booking of rooms for the Society's use.
4. The Steward shall generally supervise and keep in an orderly manner the rooms of the Society, and shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to the keys and locks of such rooms. The Steward shall ensure that members of Council surrender their keys upon their ceasing to hold that position in the Society and to present such keys to their successors for distribution at the Final Private Business Meeting.
5. The Steward shall be responsible for the provision and upkeep of entertainment facilities in the Society's rooms.
6. The Steward shall be responsible for the arrangements for Freshers' Week in each Session.
7. The Steward shall act as Fire Officer for the Society, in keeping with the regulations set by the Dublin Fire Brigade.

Chapter XI The Schools Convenor

1. The Schools Convenor shall be responsible for the Society's activities in encouraging debating among second-level students.
2. The Schools Convenor shall in particular convene a debating competition for second-level students.

Chapter XII The Vice-President

1. The Vice-President shall be elected by Council from among the Ordinary Members of Council at the first Council meeting of each Session. A Council meeting at which the Vice-President is to be elected shall be chaired by the Secretary. The President shall announce the results of the election for Vice-President at the next Private Business Meeting.
2. The Vice-President shall take the chair at all meetings of Council.

3. The Vice-President shall assume all presidential powers in the absence of the President.
4. The Vice-President shall chair the committee to enquire into the conduct of the Officers and Ordinary Members of Council during the Session.
5. The Vice-President shall convene the Maiden Speakers' Competition.
6. The Vice-President shall be responsible for the involvement and welfare of Ordinary Members in their first year of active membership of the Society

Chapter XIII The Senior Member of Council

1. The Senior Member of Council shall be elected by Council from among the Ordinary Members of Council at the first Council meeting of each Session. The President shall announce the results of the election for Senior Member of Council at the next Private Business Meeting.
2. The Senior Member of Council shall be responsible for organising the Ordinary Members of Council in their duties on a weekly basis.
3. The Senior Member of Council shall be responsible for the welfare of all Ordinary Members of Council, and shall represent the views of any Ordinary Member(s) on their behalf should they so wish at a Council Meeting.
4. The Senior Member of Council shall on all occasions be the President's deputy. If another Officer save the President is temporarily unable to fulfill their position for a stated reason, the Senior Member of Council shall assume that Officer's duties, with the appropriate guidance from the relevant Officer and Council, until such a time as the Officer is capable to resume their duties. This mechanism may be subject to the approval of the Council.

Chapter XIV The Council

1. The Council of the Society shall consist of nine Officers, the Ordinary Members of Council and the Honorary Members of Council. The Officers shall be the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Registrar, the Debates Convenor, the Librarian, the Steward, the Schools Convenor and the Vice-President. There

shall be seven elected Ordinary Members of Council, as well as no more than seven other Ordinary Members of Council, who shall be elected in accordance with Chapter III, part (e).

2. The Honorary Members of Council shall be such Officers and Vice-Presidents of previous Sessions as shall have been declared deserving of the Marked Thanks of the Society and are duly elected by the Council at the first Council meeting of the current Session. The Honorary Members of Council shall act in an advisory capacity to the Officers and Ordinary Members of Council and shall retain all privileges accorded to constituent members of the Council.
3. The Council shall meet once a week during Term, and when summoned by the President. The Council shall meet in the Society's rooms, and no person who is not a member thereof shall be permitted to be present, except only that Council may at any time call any person before it and examine him.
4. Seven members of Council shall be sufficient to call quorum, and the Chair shall be taken by the Vice-President, or in his or her absence the Secretary. In the event of quorum not being reached, the council may adjourn to a nominated public house to be refreshed at the personal expense of the President.
5. The Council shall have the general management of all the affairs of the Society, and shall decide on matters of general policy. It shall have the power to make or authorise all purchases on behalf of the Society.
6. Individual members of Council may be allotted specific tasks by Council as a whole or by any Officer, and may be penalised by the President for failure to carry out such tasks in accordance with Chapter XVII.
7. Save in the case of impeached proceedings, all Council decisions shall be taken by majority vote of those present and voting; if they be equally divided, the President shall exercise a casting vote.
8. The Council shall have the power to remove an Ordinary Member of Council for stated reason by privileged motion. A resolution to this effect shall be approved by at least two-thirds of the members of Council. The resolution shall be debated by means of privileged motion no. 12 at the next Private Business Meeting. The resolution shall be laid aside if half the members present object.
9. The Council may summon an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society whenever it deems it necessary, providing that twenty-four hours' notice of such meeting be given to the Society, except in the case of a meeting convened solely

- to ratify the decisions of the impeachment committee as per Chapter III, Section 12.
10. The Council shall have the power to select essays for publication in the Proceedings of the Society from among those recommended to compete for Medals.
 11. The Council's decisions can only be overruled by express resolution of the Society.
 12. A regular day and time is to be allocated for Council Meetings. This may only be varied in exceptional circumstances with a minimum of twenty-four hours' notice.
 13. Within one week of the Final Private Business Meeting, a joint Council meeting will be held consisting of all the Officers and Council of each relevant Session.
 14. If an Officer or Ordinary Member of Council shall absent himself from two consecutive Private Business, Public Business, or Council Meetings of the Society without leave of absence or reasonable excuse, the Registrar shall give notice, and the President may, if no reasonable excuse is received and allowed, declare the position vacant subject to receipt of said excuse within one week, and in the absence of said excuse after that week, shall proceed to elect a new Officer or Ordinary Member of Council.

Chapter XV The Meetings of the Society

1. Twenty-one members shall form the Quorum for a Private or Public Business Meeting. The President, upon learning that no quorum is present, shall have the power to wait five minutes to allow a quorum to be formed. The Chair shall have the power to keep order until he declares the meeting to be adjourned, notwithstanding there may not be a quorum for other business. Any fine so imposed shall be recorded in the minutes.

a. Standing Orders for Private Business

2. The order of business on the night of an ordinary meeting shall be a Private Business Meeting unless otherwise stated.
3. The Order of Private Business shall be as follows:
 1. Minutes;
 2. Fines;
 3. Reports;
 4. Questions;
 5. Motions on Notice;
 6. Motions not on Notice;
 7. General Business.
4. The President may suspend the proceedings of Private Business at any time so that Public Business may proceed, at the end of which Private Business will be re-convened.
5. The Minutes shall be read by the Registrar and signed by the President if there are no objections or alterations. In the case of an objection being deemed legitimate by the President, the minutes shall be duly amended in accordance with the objection
6. The Fines shall be read by the Treasurer and can be challenged upon first reading. The challenger shall stand up and say "Challenge, Mr./Madam President". Fines may also be appealed by means of privileged motion no. 9 on or before the next Private Business Meeting.
7. Reports shall be read by the chair of the sub-committee responsible for the report. The report is then included into the records of the Society, or put on notice and voted on at the following Private Business Meeting. Such a vote is binding.
8. At Question Time, the members shall address their questions as either "May I ask you, Mr./Madam President ...?" or "May I ask the (Officer) through you, Mr./Madam President ...?", mentioning the relevant Officer.
9. Officers shall reply to questions briefly and in the form "Mr./Madam President, in answer to the question just asked by Mr./Madam X ..."
10. No more than ten minutes shall be given over to Question Time. The Librarian shall inform the President when ten minutes have elapsed so that the Society may immediately move on to other business.
11. Motions on notice shall be discussed by the proposers and opposers and a vote is taken. The vote is binding.

12. Motions not on notice shall be proposed and seconded and, if accepted, are discussed at the next Private Business Meeting.
13. At General Business, nominations, privileged motions and any other business not fitting into any of the above categories shall be raised.
14. The following shall be deemed privileged motions, which may be proposed and seconded at any time without previous notice. All privileged motions shall require a super-majority of two-thirds of voters to assent in order to pass:
 1. That the meeting be adjourned.
 2. That Standing Orders be raised.
 3. That a speaker X be or be not heard.
 4. That leave of absence be granted to an Officer.
 5. That the Chair do leave the chair and that X do take it.
 6. That a vote of thanks, congratulations, regret or sympathy be passed.
 7. That the motion be amended to read as follows ...
 8. That a sub-committee of (list of people) be established to ...
 9. That the fines of X be remitted.
 10. That the question be now put.
 11. That the motion before the House be withdrawn.
 12. That an Officer or Member of Council be censured for failing in his or her duties under the laws and traditions of the Society.
 13. That the speech of X do not stand as a speech for the purpose of the speech requirements for Society elections.
 14. That a member of the Society be suspended for (period of time) for (reason).
 15. That a rejected or dismissed motion be permitted to be re-introduced.
15. If a member of any sub-committee appointed under privileged motion No. 7. should resign, the sub-committee may elect a replacement.
16. Points of Order can be made at any time and take precedence except during the minutes, when a motion is being proposed or seconded, or when the President is already ruling on a point of order. Points of Order are made by a member standing, placing his or her hand on his or her head, and saying "On a Point of Order, Mr./Madam President".

17. All motions, including privileged motions, must be signed by the proposer and the seconder, dated correctly, and delivered to the President in order to be valid.
18. If a member who has given notice of motion or its seconder be not present, the motion on notice will lapse.
19. Motions involving a change to the Laws of the Society shall require a super-majority of two-thirds of voters to assent in order to pass.
20. Any alteration to the Laws of the Society shall come into force immediately on passing of the altering motion on notice.
21. When making any speech, the member ~~shall~~ should address the House with the words "Mr./Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the University Philosophical Society, Ladies and Gentlemen."
22. The President shall be the sole interpreter of the Laws and judge of order for the night. The President shall have the power to fine any member present for any act which is in direct and substantial interference with the order of the meeting, and may fine any Officer or member of Council for neglect or breach of their duty or customs of the Society. These fines are subject to repeal as contained elsewhere in the Laws. The fines shall be awarded in accordance with Chapter XVII.
23. The President may, having fined a member three times for a stated reason, ask the member to leave and on his refusal he may appoint a Vice-Presidential sub-committee by means of privileged motion no. 8 to remove the offending member.
24. The President may reject any privileged motion or motion not on notice if the Council deem it to be frivolous and improper. This shall not apply to privileged motion no. 15.
25. Reports which are binding to the Society shall be put on notice at the same meeting at which they are read and voted on at the next Private Business Meeting.
26. The Officers' Conduct Report shall, in exception to the previous rule, be put on notice at the first Private Business Meeting of the next Session.
27. No sub-committee shall continue to act beyond the end of the Session for which it is appointed, unless re-elected.
28. The nominations to Offices or Seats on Council for all elections shall be taken in General Business. This shall be announced at the previous Private Business Meeting. They shall take the form "We hereby propose Mr./Madam X for the office of X for the Xth Session" (or "remainder of the Xth Session" in the case of by-elections).
29. No report of a sub-committee may be read before the house unless signed by two-thirds of the members of that sub-committee.

30. If a motion be unopposed, it shall be passed by acclaim. The proposer shall have the right to speak on the motion in any case.

b. Standing Orders for Public Business

31. The Order of Public Business may be any one of the following:
1. A debate;
 2. A paper reading meeting;
 3. A general public speaking meeting, or a public interview.
32. If a majority of the Council should vote to hold another type of meeting, they may do so; but this meeting will not be an ordinary meeting for the Minutes and will not count as an ordinary meeting for the purposes of the Fundamental Regulations. Speakers may not use addresses at such meetings for election eligibility requirements.
33. Speaking on the essay shall take the form of a Vote of Thanks to the Essayist. A division is then taken on the subject of the essay.
34. For a debate meeting, the standard parliamentary debating format shall be used, unless standing orders be suspended by means of privileged motion no. 2. A division is taken at the end of a meeting.
35. At any meeting of the Society, the President may limit the duration of the speeches. In general, no speaker may speak for more than ten minutes, except a Distinguished Guest.
36. In the case of a general public speaking meeting, the meeting shall take the form of speeches on a given topic. No division shall be taken.
37. Two amendments cannot be before the meeting at the same time.
38. When an amendment has been adopted, the question as amended shall be treated as a substantive question, and shall be subject to further amendments.
39. No member may speak twice on the same motion, and a member who has spoken on a motion cannot subsequently propose, but may second or speak to, an amendment thereto.
40. No voting on any motion or amendment shall take place until such motion or amendment be put from the chair. If a division be called by any member after the question has been put from the chair, the Society shall divide, and tellers be

- appointed immediately. In case of an equal division, the Chair shall have the casting vote.
41. When a member rises to speak, she shall address the chair with the address "(Mr./Madam Chair,) Mr./Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the University Philosophical Society, Ladies and Gentlemen."
 42. The Chair, upon learning that no quorum is present, shall have the power to wait five minutes to allow a quorum to be formed. The President shall have the power to keep order until he declares the meeting to adjourned, notwithstanding there may not be quorum for other business.
 43. At the end of the Session, all motions not disposed of shall lapse.
 44. The suspension of standing orders must be for a purpose and permits:
 1. That no points of information be taken;
 2. An alteration or delay in the order of business;
 3. That a member be reheard;
 4. That a second paper be delivered.
 45. The suspension of standing orders shall last only until its purpose has been accomplished, when standing orders shall be declared resumed. On the resumption of standing orders, business shall be resumed at the point reached before this suspension, but omitting such matters or business as have been transacted during the suspension. During the suspension of standing orders for one given purpose, standing orders may, at the discretion of the Chair and subject to privileged motion no. 2, be further suspended for another given purpose in addition, in the same manner as if standing orders were not suspended.
 46. Any person in attendance at Public Business who is not a member may nonetheless speak on a motion if the Chair should choose to recognise her.

c. Standing Orders for the Opening Meeting

1. The Chair having been taken, the Minutes of the last Opening Meeting shall be read by the Registrar and, if accepted, signed by the Chair.
2. The Awards of the Society shall be presented to the successful candidates by the Chair.

3. The President shall deliver his or her address.
4. The following motions shall be proposed and seconded:
 1. “That the Thanks of the University Philosophical Society are due to the President for his or her address.”
 2. “That the University Philosophical Society is worthy of the support of the students of this University.”
 3. “That the Chair do leave the chair and the President do take it.”
 4. “That the Thanks of the Society are due to the Chair and the Distinguished Guests who have honoured it with their presence this evening.”

d. The Bram Stoker Club

- 1 The primary paper-reading forum of the Society shall be the Bram Stoker Club, which is separate to and distinct from Chamber debates.
- 2 A regular day and time shall be allocated for meetings of the Bram Stoker Club.
- 3 Management of the Club shall be entrusted to a sub-committee of three ordinary members, one of whom shall be nominated by the Council to act as Chair. This sub-committee shall report to and receive funding from the Council and shall in all matters be subject to the overriding authority of the Council.
- 4 One Officer shall be nominated as the designated point of contact between the sub-committee and the Council.
- 5 The sub-committee shall be appointed each year by the Council, with due regard to the opinions of the incumbent sub-committee, prior to the first week of Michaelmas Term. A representative of the incumbent sub-committee shall form the new sub-committee by way of privileged motion at the following Private Business Meeting.
- 6 The sub-committee shall be responsible for the running of the Club and shall in particular be responsible for securing speakers to present papers on a weekly basis.

Chapter XVI Medals and Prizes of the Society

a. Adjudication & Categories of Medal or Prize

- 1 At the end of the Session, the Society shall award a Gold or Silver Medal or Marked Thanks in Composition to the author of the best essay.
- 2 At the end of the Session, the Society may award a Gold or Silver Medal or Marked Thanks in Oratory to each of the best speakers.
- 3 The Council shall determine the best essay and best speech of the Session after seeking the appropriate advice of members.
- 4 Prior to the Final Private Business Meeting of the Session, the Council shall solicit the advice of Honorary Members and the Honorary Members of Council to determine which of the awards of the Society is merited by the quality of the essay.

b. Composition

- 1 Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 refer only to papers or essays delivered by student members of the Society at Public Business Meetings of the Society or the Bram Stoker Club.
- 2 An essay which has once obtained an award cannot again be sent at any subsequent competition for awards in connection with the Society.

c. Oratory

- 1 The Council shall determine the best speakers of the Session after seeking the advice of members.
- 2 The primary method of seeking members' advice in regard to this section will be the distribution and collection of Oratory Returns sheets at Public Business Meetings.
- 3 The Secretary shall compile a league of speakers in descending order of merit.
- 4 Only those speeches delivered at Ordinary Public Business Meetings of the Society shall qualify as competing for the Society's prizes and medals in Oratory.

d. Rules & Other Awards

- 1 No member shall obtain a particular Gold Medal more than once, or a particular Silver Medal more than once.

- 2 The Society may create and confer other awards as it sees fit, including a Maiden Speaker's Award.
- 3 All awards announced at the Final Private Business Meeting will be distributed at the Opening Meeting of the following Session.

Chapter XVII Penalties

- 1 Officers and Members of Council shall be fined for attending any meeting of the society if not wearing academic dress.
 - i The code of academic dress for general Meetings of the Society shall be black tie.
 - ii The Council may dispense with black tie at a daytime (prior to 17:00 GMT) awarding of the Society's Honorary Patronage, where the applicable code shall be business attire.
- 2 Members of the Society shall be fined for any conduct outlined in Chapter XV which breaches Order. This shall include an exclamation of unparliamentary language.
- 3 The ordinary fine shall be set at the level of twice the annual subscription, however the President or Treasurer shall not be limited by this provision to impose a fine in excess of this, with the approval of Council.
- 4 A super-fine of no less than €50 shall apply for damage occasioned to the Society's records and/or relics.
- 5 The Council shall not be empowered to impose a fine in excess of €1,000,000 or equivalent amount.
- 6 The Council shall be empowered to revoke the membership of any person who fails to meet the conditions of his or her fine.
- 7 Appeals may be instituted in line with Chapter XV

END