

Dublin University Players Constitution



Name:

1. The Society shall be called "Dublin University Players".

Objects:

2. The objectives of the society are to promote an interest in all aspects of the theatre, to provide an opportunity for acting and for participation in all aspects of stage work, including the direction of productions, the provision of light, sound and set for them, and involvement in stage management, to encourage members to gain a wide experience in these areas and to present productions with special reference to plays of literary merit or of an experimental nature.

Membership:

3. Membership of the Society shall be open to all capitated students of the College, to all academic staff of the College, and only in exceptional circumstances to anyone else.

4. Membership shall be of three kinds: ordinary, honorary and associate membership. Ordinary membership shall be granted to capitated students and the academic staff of the college in return for a subscription of €1, or other such figure as shall be decided by the committee within the limits set by the CSC or the board. Honorary membership may be conferred as a mark of exceptional service to or patronage of the society to those who are deemed to be the best representation of the community ideals and values of this society, as decided by the committee. This shall be known as a lifetime membership. Associate members may be elected by the committee for the purpose of allowing people who are not eligible for ordinary membership to participate in the activities of the society, but only in exceptional circumstances. This category of membership is for the purpose of obtaining specialised

services for a particular show, and those elected will, therefore, cease to be members at the conclusion of such a show. The appearance of any associate member in performances subsequent to the initial run which may represent the society, shall be at the discretion of the committee. The subscription for associate members shall be as for ordinary members. However, only ordinary members of the Society are entitled to vote at general meetings or to stand for election to the committee.

President and Vice-Presidents:

5. The President shall be a member of the academic staff of the College and shall be a permanent officer of the Society until they shall resign or die. On such a resignation or death, the new President shall be nominated by the committee and the nomination shall be confirmed at the next Annual General Meeting (hereafter referred to as AGM).

6. The President shall chair the AGM of the Society, they may at other times intercede in case of serious problems within the Society or between the Society and the College authorities or otherwise; in particular the freedom of expression and control of the premises by the society shall be maintained with the help of the President.

7. Vice-Presidents or patrons may from time to time be nominated by the committee as a mark of thanks for services to or patronage of the society. Their nominations shall be conferred at the next AGM.

8. The schedule of this constitution shall contain the names of the President and the Vice-presidents.

The Committee

9. The committee shall consist of the chairperson, the secretary, the treasurer, the technical manager, and eight ordinary members, the executive consisting of the chairperson, secretary, treasurer and the technical manager. The committee shall have power to co-opt temporary members for specific purposes; such persons are to vote only on such matters connected with that purpose and serve on the committee only as long as is justified by the reason for their co-option. The quorum of the committee shall be seven.

10. The committee shall meet at least once a week during each college term, and as necessary during the vacation.

11. The number constituting a quorum of the committee during vacations shall be decided by the committee at the last meeting of the term. All such meetings shall be attended by the chairperson, or their personal representative if they are unable to attend, such representative being appointed in writing before the commencement of the meeting.

12. The committee shall be responsible for the policy of the society. In particular it shall decide what productions shall take place on the premises and how they shall otherwise be used. Any substantial change in policy shall only be decided after consultation with society members at a general meeting (hereafter referred to as GM).

13. The Committee shall be responsible for the routine management of the society. It shall ensure that the theatre and its contents, props, costumes, and other items belonging to the society are kept in good order.

14. The committee may delegate to sub-committees the power to manage specific matters appertaining to the society. No decision of such a sub-committee shall be ratified except by the committee.

15. The committee, on a vote of not less than seven members of the committee present at a meeting of which three days notice has been given, may suspend a member of the society either temporarily or permanently. An EGM of the society may be called at the instigation of the member who has been suspended, or by any other member of the society. Such a meeting shall be held not less than four and not more than seven days from the suspension, or in the first week of the following lecture term should the suspension take place out of lecture term. Any such EGM may terminate the suspension on a majority vote, or, on a two-thirds majority may expel the member from the society. A member who has been suspended or expelled shall take no part in the society and shall not have access to the society's premises, except on the occasion of the EGM considering their expulsion.

The Annual General Meeting and General Meetings

16. The AGM of the society shall be held in week 5 of Hilary Term. A notice shall be posted on the society's notice board or otherwise publicised to the members not less than fourteen days before the meeting, giving the date and time of the meeting and the fact that elections to the committee will take place thereat. The quorum for the AGM shall be forty members or one quarter of the society's members, whichever is the lesser.

17. The meeting shall be open to all members of the society, but only ordinary members shall be entitled to vote.

18. If the President is unable to attend and chair the meeting, the chairperson shall chair the meeting.

19. At the meeting, the chairperson and treasurer shall read their reports of the society's activities and financial position in the previous year, and the election of a new committee shall take place.

20. A GM of the society shall be called by the committee each term, or an EGM may be called by not less than ten members of the society who give seven days notice in writing to the committee. Seven days notice as provided for in the case of the AGM shall be given unless the committee shall otherwise direct. The quorum shall be the same as that for the AGM.

Elections

21. An extraordinary GM of the society shall be called to replace a member of the executive who has resigned, been suspended, or expelled from the society (as provided for in 23 below). Voting shall be as provided for in 22 below. The quorum shall be the same as that for the

AGM. Seven days notice shall be given unless the committee otherwise direct. Elections to the committee shall otherwise be held at the AGM.

22a. The fourteen committee positions shall be elected in separate ballots by means of a single transferable vote and according to the following order: Chairperson; Secretary; Treasurer; Technical Manager; Venue Technician; Productions Officer; House Manager; Front of House Manager; Entertainment Officer; Publicity and Communications Manager; Social Media Officer; Wardrobe and Basement Manager; Programmes Officer; and Festival and Workshops Coordinator.

22b. Each ballot shall also have the option to Reopen Nominations (hereafter referred to as RON). In the event of an election producing a result of RON, the position will be left vacant, and the elections for the rest of the committee shall continue in the order set out above. It shall be the responsibility of the newly elected committee to arrange an EGM to fill the vacant position or positions, taking place within three weeks of the AGM. In the event that these elections produce a result of RON again, the committee may co-opt a general member of the society to fill any vacant positions, except in the case of executive positions (as per 25 below).

22c. Should the election for Chairperson result in RON, or should no candidate for Chairperson make themselves known at the AGM, the Chairperson of the incumbent committee will continue on in an acting capacity until the EGM organised by the newly elected committee, as per 22b.

23. Candidates must be members of the society and capitated students of the College, and each candidate must be proposed and seconded by a member of the society. The candidates, proposers, and seconders must be present at the meeting. Candidates may be proposed in their absence where the AGM shall decide by a simple majority vote. Should a candidate, once elected, cease to be a capitated student of the College during their term of office, they shall automatically relinquish their place on the committee, having completed all pending responsibilities.

24. The newly elected committee shall take office on the first day of Week 8 of Hilary Term, and both the outgoing and incoming committees shall be present.

25. The committee shall have the power to co-opt members to replace those who have resigned, been suspended/expelled from the society, or who leave the College permanently or die, except in the case of the executive (see 21 above). The co-opted members shall be taken from the previous AGMs list of election results, the candidate with the most votes being co-opted. In the event of a tie, the co-option shall be at the discretion of the candidates themselves and the committee. In the event of nobody from the AGM list being interested in the position, the appointment may be made at the committee's discretion.

26. No one shall be admitted to membership less than 24 hours before the AGM, except where the committee otherwise direct.

The Chairperson

27. The Chairperson shall take the chair at all GMs other than the AGM, and all meetings of the committee. Where they are unavailable, the committee shall appoint one of their number as pro-chairperson.

28. They shall countersign all cheques and withdrawal forms drawn on the society's bank account or accounts, except as provided by Article 33. They shall also be entitled to issue receipts.

29. They shall have an ordinary vote at committee meetings and in the case of an equality of votes on any matter, they shall have a casting vote. They shall not have a casting vote at GMs.

30. They shall countersign all correspondence from the secretary to the College authorities having consulted the committee, and if they deem necessary, the President.

31. In addition, the Chairperson shall have sat on a previous DU Players Committee.

The Treasurer

32. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all the financial transactions of the society, for the collection of subscriptions and the maintenance of accounts.

33. All cheques and withdrawal forms from the society's bank account shall be signed by the treasurer. Arrangements for the issue of cheques during the vacations or where the chairperson or treasurer are otherwise unavailable for any short period may include provision for the appointment of a pro-chairperson or pro-treasurer from the members of the committee for that period. Such pro-chairperson or pro-treasurer shall be empowered to issue cheques only when countersigned by the treasurer or chairperson. Provided always that there are two signatures on all such instruments, one of which must be either the chairperson's or the treasurer's. The treasurer is also responsible for the management of the Societies electronic banking where necessary and shall conduct any such banking together with the other signatory on the account. The treasurer shall also be empowered to issue receipts.

34. The treasurer shall maintain a full list of the members in conjunction with the secretary.

35. The treasurer shall close the accounts in accordance with CSC deadlines each year, and thereafter as soon as may be possible, shall arrange the accounts for presentation to an auditor being a member of college staff or otherwise as provided by the rules of the CSC. Such accounts having been audited and signed, a copy shall be furnished to the CSC and to the succeeding treasurer. The succeeding treasurer shall lay the accounts before the new committee for their approval and that committee may if necessary call upon the outgoing treasurer to explain any matters arising.

35a. The Treasurer will be responsible for managing the box office; including ticketing for performances and maintaining a suitable float in the cash box.

35b. The Treasurer should work towards securing outside sponsorship for the society and its events.

Secretary

36. The secretary shall conduct all the correspondence of the society and shall keep a record of it. The secretary shall present to the chairperson all correspondence with college officers for submission to the committee and signature as above.

37. It shall further be the responsibility of the secretary to obtain performing rights, where necessary, in advance of every DU Players production. Failure to obtain performing rights is a serious offence, and shall result in the impeachment of the secretary as per Article 44.

38. Shall maintain records and minutes of all meetings of the society and committee.

39. Shall maintain a list of members of the society in conjunction with the treasurer.

39a. Shall be responsible for contacting guests and potential Honorary Patrons.

39b. Shall be responsible for ensuring good communication with other college societies.

The Technical Manager

40. The Technical Manager shall be responsible for the maintenance of the lighting and sound systems in the theatre, the security and order of the lighting box and the technical storage area. They shall also maintain the building in accordance with the regulations set out by Dublin fire brigade in relation to public performance areas.

41. They shall act in a supervisory role with regard to the technical requirements of all Players productions.

42. They shall prepare an inventory of equipment and a report on its condition at the end of their term of office.

43. They shall be responsible for the instruction and approval of prospective technical crews.

44. They shall qualify in both fire and first aid training alongside the Venue Technician, to be arranged at the discretion of the society in term.

The General Committee

45. The committee shall have collective responsibility for all matters relating to the running of the theatre and are obliged to attend each production presented by DU Players. The members of the general committee have their own individual functions to perform. Any member of the committee who fails to fulfill their duties to the satisfaction of the society may be impeached by a majority vote of the committee. Each show shall be appointed a committee member as their committee representative, who shall act as a liaison with the committee, and shall advise the production. Furthermore, the liaison shall be responsible for procuring a soft and hard copy of the poster for said production and, in the case of new writing, a copy of the script.

45a. Each committee representative (liaison) shall see a run of the performance NO LESS THAN 5 DAYS in advance of the get-in for the production. Should this run not go ahead without good reason or the liaison have reason to believe that the production will not be fully prepared, they shall immediately arrange a meeting between themselves, the Director, Chairperson, Technical Manager and Productions Officer. This meeting shall be considered an exceptional circumstance and the purpose will be to ensure the complete preparation of the production.

45b. It shall also be the duty of the liaison to attend at least one early rehearsal and one production meeting of their assigned production. They shall be the point of contact between the show cast/crew and the committee. Should any matter arise that is a cause of concern, the liaison shall immediately arrange a meeting between themselves, the Productions Officer and the Chairperson. The committee reserve the right to step in to resolve the arising issue. This shall be considered an exceptional circumstance, the purpose of which shall be to ensure the welfare of each cast and crew member.

46. HOUSE AND ARCHIVE MANAGER shall act in a general supervisory capacity in the theatre. they shall be responsible for the rehearsal rooms, the stage and scenery storage area. In addition they shall also have the responsibility for bookings of Players theatre by outside companies. They shall be in charge for the upkeep of the Players' archive in conjunction with the college archivist. They shall ensure that a poster, a programme and a script of every show is archived and that the agenda and minutes of every committee meeting and all directors' submissions and contracts are also archived.

47. FRONT OF HOUSE, OFFICE AND DESIGN MANAGER shall be responsible for the catering for each event, if required. They are also responsible for the general upkeep and order of the office, the Design Space and Front of House, in conjunction with the directors. Furthermore, they will be responsible for coordinating the design team for all events.

48. VENUE TECHNICIAN shall assist the Technical Manager in the running of the theatre and its associated technical works. They shall maintain a full service schedule as prescribed by the Technical Manager, of all the equipment owned and maintained by DU Players. They shall support incoming show crews with regard to their basic technical requirements. They shall, in association with the Technical Manager, ensure incoming crews have a suitable knowledge of the fire safety requirements of the venue or event facilitated by DU Players. They shall assume the duties of the technical manager in the event of their absence

48a. They shall qualify in both fire and first aid training alongside the Technical Manager, to be arranged at the discretion of the society in term.

49. PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER shall be responsible for the publicity and promotion of the society and all its events. They will take primary responsibility for the graphic design of the society and shall send the weekly e-mail. They shall be in charge of the society notice boards ensuring they are tidy and up to date. They shall maintain a photographic record of all productions. They will work alongside the Social Media Officer to ensure an optimum level of publicity throughout all that the society does and to edit and produce The Player.

50. SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICER shall work alongside the Publicity and Communications Manager to publicise the events, shows and activities of the society. They shall take responsibility for the management of all relevant society social media accounts and shall also be responsible for any media enquiries that the society receives. They shall maintain the society website and e-mail account. They will edit and produce The Player alongside the Publicity and Communications Manager.

51. WARDROBE AND BASEMENT MANAGER shall be responsible for the inventory, upkeep and return of all the props and costumes in the theatre, as well as the upkeep of the basement area. They must also work with the Technical manager to ensure that the basement conforms to all fire and safety regulations.

52. ENTERTAINMENT OFFICER shall be responsible for organising all the society's social events including Freshers Week, DU Players Annual Ball, Wednesday Nights, plus Annual and Term General Meetings. They shall also be responsible for ordering refreshments for society events; and obtaining the relevant licences from college authorities.

53. PRODUCTIONS OFFICER shall act as a liaison between the technical staff and all events wishing to use the facilities available to DU Players. They will also be responsible for the organizing of production meetings between the technical staff and the shows prior to each get-in weekend. In addition they shall ensure the maintenance of the production pack and provide feedback on submissions.

54. PROGRAMMES OFFICER shall oversee any and all theatre training programmes enacted in DU Players. They shall run the termly Players Introductory Programme alongside further training programmes which seek to further cultivate a culture of theatrical innovation and excellence within DU Players. They alongside the Festivals and Workshops Coordinator shall be responsible for the integration of new members into the society and ensuring that their voice and opinions are represented at committee meetings.

55. FESTIVAL AND WORKSHOPS COORDINATOR shall coordinate the organisation of festivals by the society throughout the year. Upon the approval of any festival being undertaken, they shall oversee the division of roles required to facilitate such a festival among the committee and other society members and shall ensure that such roles are fulfilled. They shall maintain overall responsibility for the planning and management of such festivals and shall liaise with the committee regarding their progress at regular intervals. They shall be responsible for organising workshops throughout the year. The Festival Coordinator alongside the Programmes Officer shall also be responsible for the integration of new members into the society and ensuring that their voice and opinions are represented at committee meetings. The Festival Coordinator shall serve as the Irish Student Drama Awards representative.

56. An assistant technical manager may be appointed at the discretion of the technical manager in order to assist the latter. This shall be a non-committee position.

57. This constitution may be amended by a vote of a majority of those present at the AGM or other general meeting provided that such majority shall be two-thirds of those present.

58. Notice of such amendments shall be given to the committee three days before the time set for the (A)GM and to the President or other chairperson of the meeting before they takes the chair.

59. Ex-Players members now graduated may have a Year's Grace in Players' Theatre, i.e., they would be entitled to membership and to work in Players for a full academic year after Graduating, via application and at the Committee's discretion.

February 2021