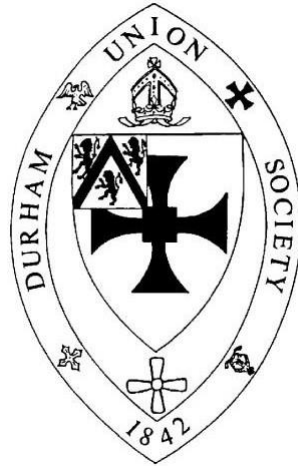


# Durham Union Society



## Constitution, Schedules, Standing Orders and Annexes; & the Rules of the North Bailey Club

*Issued on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, MMXX*

Jack Perry  
Returning Officer

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# Constitution

## Name, Object & Ownership

- (i) The name of the Society shall be the Durham Union Society, hereinafter referred to as ‘the Society’.
- (ii) The Society shall aim above all to stimulate debate amongst its members, providing them with a forum in which to express their views.
- (iii) The Society shall further aim:
  - (a) to educate those of its members who would learn in the art of public speech and especially of debate;
  - (b) to represent the University at competitive debate;
  - (c) to educate and entertain its members by the bringing of speakers to the Society;
  - (d) to provide its members with a place to meet, *and*
  - (e) to hold social events for its members.
- (iv) The Society shall not pursue any aim that is not set out in cls (ii) and (iii), unless it be to benefit a registered charity or to provide its members with an amenity for which there is material demand among the membership.
- (v) The ownership of the Society is vested in its Trustees, who shall have ultimate authority in the Society, subject only to the Deed of Trust.

## Membership

- (vi) Any member of the University may apply to the Secretary of the Society to become a Full Life Member of the Society. Upon payment of the subscription determined in accordance with the Rules<sup>1</sup>, the Secretary of the Society shall admit to membership any such applicant not previously expelled from the Society who agrees in writing to abide by the Rules. A Full Life Member of the Society shall remain such for life, unless they choose to leave the Society voluntarily or are expelled from the Society.
- (vii) Any member of the University may apply to the Secretary of the Society to become a Full Yearly Member of the Society. Upon payment of the subscription determined in accordance with the Rules, the Secretary of the Society shall admit to membership any such applicant not previously expelled from the Society who agrees in writing to abide by the Rules. A Full Yearly Member of the Society shall remain such for a calendar year after their joining, unless they choose to leave the Society voluntarily or are expelled from the Society.
- (viii) A Full Member in good order shall have the right to attend, and when in attendance to vote at, General Meetings of the Society and the right to enjoy the use of all facilities that the Society maintains in the direct pursuance of the aim set out in cl (iii) (d). A Full Member in residence and in good order<sup>2</sup> shall have the right to vote in Presidential elections.
- (ix) Any person over the age of eighteen may apply to the Secretary of the Society to become an Associate Life Member of the Society. Upon payment of the appropriate subscription fee determined in accordance with the Rules and subject to the approval of the Standing Committee of the Society, the Secretary of the Society shall admit to membership any such applicant not previously expelled from the Society who agrees in writing to abide by the Rules. An Associate Life Member of the Society shall remain such for life, unless they choose to leave the Society voluntarily or are expelled from the Society.

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<sup>1</sup> As set by General Committee, SO IV §5

<sup>2</sup> Defined in Schedule I

- (x) Any person over the age of eighteen may apply to the Secretary of the Society to become an Associate Yearly Member of the Society. Upon payment of the appropriate subscription fee determined in accordance with the Rules and subject to the approval of the Standing Committee of the Society, the Secretary of the Society shall admit to membership any such applicant not previously expelled from the Society who agrees in writing to abide by the Rules. An Associate Yearly Member of the Society shall remain such for life, unless they choose to leave the Society voluntarily or are expelled from the Society.
- (xi) An Associate Member in good order shall have the right to attend, and when in attendance vote at, General Meetings of the Society and the right to enjoy the use of all facilities that the Society maintains in the direct pursuance of the aim set out in cl (iii) (d).
- (xii) Members of the societies listed in Schedule II, which share reciprocal relations with the Society, shall have the right to attend General Meetings of the Society and the right to enjoy the use of all facilities that the Society maintains in the direct pursuance of the aim set out in cl (iii) (d).
- (xiii) A General Meeting of the Society shall have the power to confer Honorary Life Membership on any person.
- (xiv) An Honorary Life Member shall have the right to attend, and when in attendance to vote at, General Meetings of the Society and the right to enjoy the use of all facilities that the Society maintains in the direct pursuance of the aim set out in cl (iii) (d).
- (xv) A member may terminate their membership of the Society by registering the decision to leave with the Secretary of the Society.

## General Meetings

- (xvi) The President of the Society shall call Ordinary General Meetings<sup>3</sup>. The purpose of such meetings shall be to debate issues of interest to the membership. Such debate shall be the Main Business of Ordinary General Meetings. Ordinary General Meetings may further transact Private Business.
- (xvii) The President of the Society, the General Committee or any member supported by the signatures of thirty members or one fifth of the membership whichever be the lesser may call Extraordinary General Meetings. The sole purpose of such meetings will be to transact Private Business.
- (xviii) Private Business duly transacted at a General Meeting shall be binding upon the Society subject to the Rules, the powers of the Trustees and the limitations of the force of motions set out in cl (iii).

## The President

- (xix) There shall be a President, head of the Society and primary interpreter of the Rules.
- (xx) The President shall be ultimately responsible for the furthering of the Society's aims in their term of office, by exercising due leadership, by the calling of Ordinary General Meetings of the Society<sup>4</sup> and by the provision and ultimate control of appropriate events and facilities.
- (xxi) The President shall be elected to serve for a period of one term by secret ballot of the members in residence<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Only the President may, SO I §1(a)

<sup>4</sup> A minimum of seven in Michaelmas and Epiphany and three in Easter, SO I §1(e)

<sup>5</sup> Detailed in SO V §3 and Annex IV §6

## The Constituent Committees

- (xxii) There shall be a House Committee. Each term a General Meeting shall elect members to the Committee<sup>6</sup>. Members of the Committee shall act as sergeants-at-arms at general meetings and assist the President in the running of events.
- (xxiii) There shall be a Secretary's Committee whose members shall be the College Secretaries. College Secretaries shall be elected at the start of Michaelmas and Epiphany term at a General Meeting. The members of the Committee shall form individually and corporately the chief link between the colleges and the Society.
- (xxiv) There shall be a Social Committee. Ordinary members of the Committee shall be elected in each term at a general meeting<sup>7</sup>. Ordinary members of the Social Committee shall assist the President and the Social Secretary in the managing and the conceiving of social events.
- (xxv) There shall be a Sponsorship Committee. Ordinary members of the Committee shall be elected each term at a general meeting<sup>8</sup>. Ordinary members of the Sponsorship Committee shall assist the Sponsorship Secretary and the Assistant Sponsorship Secretary in the Society.
- (xxvi) There shall be a Debates Committee. Ordinary members of the committee shall be elected at a General Meeting on the nomination of the Debates Selection Committee. Ordinary members of the Debates Committee shall assist the Director of Debating, the Debates Training Secretary, the Debates Competitions Secretary, and the Debates Schools Secretary in the managing and organising of competitive debating within the Society
- (xxvii) There shall be a President's Committee. Ordinary members of the President's Committee shall assist the President, the Presidents-elect and the Speakers Secretary in the finding of speakers for events and the general running of a terms' program of events.

## The General Committee

- (xxviii) There shall be a General Committee. The General Committee shall consist of:
  - (a) the ordinary members of the constituent committees, being the House Committee, the Secretary's Committee, the Social Committee, the Sponsorship Committee, the President's Committee and the Debates Committee;
  - (b) those officers and officials<sup>11</sup> elected in direct pursuance of the provisions of the Constitution;
  - (c) such former officers and officials that the Committee has elected in direct pursuance of the provisions of the Constitution who ceased to hold office in the current term, except if they submitted their resignation prior to the committee elections at the start of the current term or were removed by a vote of no confidence;
  - (d) the Presidents-elect;
  - (e) any Past Presidents in residence; *and*
  - (f) the President.
- (xxix) The General Committee shall be the primary legislative body of the Society.
- (xxx) Decisions of the General Committee shall be binding on the Society subject to the Rules, the powers of the Trustees, the authority of a General Meeting and the limitations of the force of motions set out in cl (lii).
- (xxxi) The General Committee shall have such sub-committees as are set out in the Rules and may institute further sub-committees by the passing of a motion to that effect.

<sup>6</sup> Ten in Michaelmas and Epiphany, eight in Easter SO II §9(b)

<sup>7</sup> Three members, SO II §8(b)

<sup>8</sup> Three members, SO II §7(c)

<sup>9</sup> Seven members, SO II §6(a); but see Annex III

<sup>10</sup> The selection committee is the Debates Selection Committee, see SO II §6(e)

<sup>11</sup> cls (xxxvi), (xxxvii), (xxxviii), (xxxix), (xl), (xli) and (xlii)

## The Officers and Officials

- (xxxii) There shall be the following full Officers of the Society, elected by the General Committee from amongst its members: the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Custodian, the Social Secretary, and the Sponsorship Secretary.
- (xxxiii) There shall be the following further Officers of the Society, elected by the General Committee from amongst its members, the Equalities Officer, the Alumni Officer, the Steward, the Assistant Custodian and the Outreach Officer.
- (xxxiv) There shall be the following Debating Officers of the Society, elected in accordance with the Rules in SO V Section 5: the Director of Debating (who shall additionally be a full officer of the Society), the Debate Competitions Secretary, the Debate Training Secretary and the Debates Schools Secretary.
- (xxxv) The chief duties of the Officers shall be as follows:
- (a) The Secretary shall be responsible for the writing and keeping of true and correct minutes<sup>12</sup>, Rules<sup>13</sup> and records of membership. The Secretary shall be responsible for the management of and liaison with the College Representatives, and shall seek to represent the views of the general membership and the General Committee to the Officers.
  - (b) The Treasurer shall be responsible for the control and management of the Society's finances<sup>14</sup>.
  - (c) The Custodian shall be responsible for the upkeep of the 24 North Bailey Club, its bar, Reading Room, accommodation, management, publicity and growth.
  - (d) The Social Secretary shall be immediately responsible for the organisation of social events.
  - (e) The Sponsorship Secretary shall be responsible for encouraging outside bodies to support the activities of the Society.
  - (f) The Director of Debating shall be immediately responsible for the organisation and promotion of competitive debate and education in public speech and debate.
  - (g) The Equalities Officer will support the Society in its equality and diversity practice and as an *ex officio* member of the President's Committee will actively assist the President and the immediate President-Elect in sending speaker invitations to members of underrepresented groups.
  - (h) Assistant Officers shall be responsible for assisting their senior counterparts.
  - (i) the Debate Training Secretary shall be immediately responsible for the co- ordination of the Society's competitive debate training.
  - (j) the Debate Competitions Secretary shall be immediately responsible for the organisation of debating tournaments, with the exception of the Durham Schools Debating Competition.
  - (k) The Assistant Custodian shall be immediately responsible for the organisation of social events in 24 NBC
  - (l) The Steward shall be responsible for the management of the House Committee, the good order of the Chamber and the welcoming of members and guests to the House.
  - (m) The Technologies Officer shall be responsible for the management of the Technologies Committee, the Society's website and office technology.
  - (n) The Alumni Officer shall be responsible for encouraging Graduate Life Members to support the activities of the Society, for enhancing links and communication between the Society and its Graduate Life Members and for collating the contact details of members in residence in order to retain links to the Society after graduation.
  - (o) The Outreach Officer shall assist the Sponsorship Secretary and Assistant Sponsorship Secretary. They shall be immediately responsible for forging community partnerships with local charities and national organisations for the purposes of working for the betterment of the local community and fundraising for charitable causes. They shall also collaborate with student groups across the university on joint events, socials and other such activities as required by the general committee. They shall be responsible for the design, ordering and distributing of stash for members to purchase.

<sup>12</sup>The Secretary must also keep a list of motions of General Committee currently in force, SO II §2(e)

<sup>13</sup> See cl (lviii)

<sup>14</sup> Defined more fully in Standing Order IV

- (p) The Debates Schools Secretary shall be immediately responsible for the organization of the Durham Schools Debating competition.
- (xxxvi) There shall be a Returning Officer, an Official of the Society, elected by the General Committee from amongst the past and present Officers, Past Presidents and members of Rules Committee of at least two terms in *statu pupillari*. The Returning Officer shall be immediately responsible for the fair holding of the Society's elections. They shall further advise the President and Standing Committee on the Rules and shall ensure these Rules are properly enforced.
- (xxxvii) There shall be a Deputy Returning Officer, an Official of the Society, appointed by the Rules Committee from amongst the past and present Officers, Past Presidents and members of the Rules Committee of at least one term *in statu pupillari*. The Deputy Returning Officer shall assist the Returning Officer in the fair holding of the Society's elections. They shall be immediately responsible for the organisation of elections to the Constituent Committees and the safe-keeping of a register of members of General Committee.
- (xxxviii) There shall be an Office Manager, an Official of the Society, appointed by the Society's Standing Committee. The Office Manager shall be immediately responsible for the management of the Society's Office.
- (a) There shall be a Bar manager, appointed by the Society's committee of trustees. The Bar manager shall be immediately responsible for the management of the Bar of the North Bailey Club and report directly to the Office Manager.
- (xxxix) There shall be a Publicity Officer, an Officer of the Society, elected by the General Committee from among the members of the Society *in statu pupillari*. The Publicity Officer will assist the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary. They shall be responsible for creating posters and for liaising with photographers hired for Society events. They will assist the Secretary and President in managing the society's social media accounts, making sure that events are posted in good time and that they reach as wide an audience as possible. They will assist the President in the creation of term cards and brochures.
- (a) Candidates for the position of Technologies Officer must meet a minimum set of technical criteria, published and reviewed by the Standing Committee on an annual basis.
- (xl) There shall be a Technologies Officer, an Officer of the Society, elected by the General Committee from among the members of the Society *in statu pupillari*. The Technologies Officer shall maintain and develop the Society's existing audio-visual capability, under the direction of the Treasurer and President. In conjunction with the Technologies Committee, the Technologies Officer shall manage the Society's website, online accounts, office hardware and technology for events and Ordinary Meetings hosted by the Society.
- (a) Candidates for the position of Technologies Officer must meet a minimum set of technical criteria, published and reviewed by the Standing Committee on an annual basis.
- (xli) There shall be a Deputy Technologies Officer, an Officer of the Society, elected by the General Committee from among the members of the Society *in statu pupillari*. The Deputy Technologies Officer shall be responsible for the management of office hardware and technology for events and Ordinary General Meetings hosted by the Society where the Technologies Officer is unable to conduct those duties.
- (a) Candidates for Deputy Technologies Officer must meet the criteria set out under (xxxix) (a).
- (xlii) Each President and President-Elect shall have the right to appoint a Speakers Secretary, an Official of the Society, from amongst the members of the Society *in statu pupillari*. Each Speakers Secretary shall assist the President or President-Elect who appointed them by inviting speakers for their term and performing other tasks as the President or President-Elect may require.
- (a) The decision of whether to appoint a Speakers Secretary is entirely at the discretion of the President or President-Elect.
- (b) Each President or President-Elect shall only have one Speakers Secretary at any time.
- (c) Any President or President-Elect may appoint a Speakers Secretary by writing to the Returning Officer.
- (d) Any President or President-Elect may remove their Speakers Secretary at any time and for any reason by writing to the Returning Officer.
- (e) A Speakers Secretary shall serve until the end of the term of the President who appointed them unless they:



- i. Resign their position in accordance with cl (xliv) *or*
  - ii. Are removed by the President or President-Elect who appointed them in accordance with (d) *or*
  - iii. Are removed by the General Committee in a Vote of No Confidence in accordance with SO III Section 6.
- (f) In the event that a Speakers Secretary is removed for any of the reasons outlined in (e), the President or President-Elect who appointed them may immediately appoint a new Speakers Secretary by writing to the Returning Officer.
- (g) A person may serve as the Speakers Secretary for more than one President or President-Elect concurrently.
- (xlili) Officers, elected Officials and the members of the Constituent Committees shall hold office for a maximum period of one year unless otherwise stated within the Rules. After this time they may stand for re-election.
- (xliv) Officers, elected Officials and the members of the Constituent Committees may resign their post at any time by writing to or by sending an email to the Returning Officer and may be removed from office according to the procedure set out in the Rules.
- (xlv) Officers, elected Officials and the members of the Constituent Committees shall serve until their successors are elected.

## **The Combination of Office**

- (xl) Where a member is entitled to sit on a committee by more than one provision of the Rules, they shall, nevertheless, have one ordinary vote only.
- (xli) No member may hold more than one of the offices listed in cls (xxxii), (xxxiii), Publicity Officer, Technologies Officer or Deputy Technologies Officer.
- (xlii) No immediate President-elect may hold any other office within the Society.
- (xlili) No President may hold any other office within the Society.
- (xliv) Should a member come to occupy two positions deemed incompatible by cls (xl), (xli), (xlii) or (xlili) they must resign one position within a week of the situation occurring or forfeit both.

## **The Standing Committee**

- (xlv) There shall be a Standing Committee. The Standing Committee shall consist of the full Officers, the immediate President-elect, and the President.
- (xlvi) The Standing Committee shall be the Society's executive.
- (xlvii) Decisions of the Standing Committee shall be binding on the Society subject to the Rules, the powers of the Trustees, the authority of a General Meeting, the decisions of the General Committee and the limitations of the force of motions set out in cl (lii).

## **The Rules Committee**

- (xlviii) There shall be a Rules Committee. The General Committee shall elect five ordinary members to the Rules Committee from amongst its members and the past officers in statu pupillari. Any past officers elected to the Rules Committee shall be accorded membership of the General Committee. The Rules Committee shall further consist of the Returning Officer, the Deputy Returning Officer and any President-elect.
- (xlix) The Rules Committee shall operate the Society's elections and adjudicate on electoral disputes.
- (l) Decisions of the Rules Committee on such matters shall be binding on the Society subject to the

Rules and such appeals for which they allow.

## **Co-option to Committees**

- (li) Any committee may co-opt any member of the Society to sit on it. Members co-opted under this provision shall have no vote.

## **Force of Motions**

- (lii) Private business duly transacted at a General Meeting and decisions of the General and Standing Committees shall be of null effect in so far as they:
  - (a) bear on the business of the Rules Committee or the Appeals Tribunal; *or*
  - (b) force the President to use such powers as are accorded to them by the Rules.

## **Concerning the Rules**

- (liii) There shall be Schedules to the Constitution containing factual information only.
- (liv) The Constitution or its Schedules shall only be amended after:
  - (a) a resolution to that effect has been passed by a two-thirds majority at a meeting of the General Committee
- (lv) The General Committee, with the consent of a General Meeting, shall have the power to issue Standing Orders. Standing Orders shall have the force of the Constitution in so far as the are not inconsistent with it. Standing Orders shall only be issued, deleted or amended after:
  - (a) a resolution to that effect has been passed by a two-thirds majority at a meeting of the General Committee
- (lvi) The General Committee, with the consent of a General Meeting, shall have the power to publish annexes to the Standing Orders. The Annexes shall set down the practice or tradition of the Society, but shall not be binding. The Annexes shall only be published, deleted or amended after a resolution of the General Committee has been ratified by a General Meeting.
- (lvii) The provisions of the Constitution, its Schedules, the Standing Orders and its Annexes are ancillary to and to be interpreted in a manner consistent with the Deed of Trust.
- (lviii) Copies of the Rules shall be safe-kept by the Secretary, the Returning Officer and the Office Manager and shall further be available for the benefit of members in the Society's Office.
- (lix) Previous resolutions of the Society and its committees shall not be invalidated by the Rules except insofar as they are inconsistent with its express provisions, in which case such resolutions are immediately superseded.
- (lx) All previous constitutions of the Society are explicitly revoked. The Rules shall have effect as from 9th January 2002.

## **Complaints Panel**

- (lxi) There shall be a Complaints Panel, which shall serve as the first point of contact for complaints received from students of the university regarding the actions or behavior of an ordinary member on Union premises (including 24 North Bailey Club) or at a Union event, or that of a member of General Committee, including elected Officers of the Society, that could be deemed to bring the Society into disrepute.
- (lxii) The Complaints Panel will uphold the founding principles of the Society and act in adherence with the Durham University Policy Statement on Freedom of Expression.
- (lxiii) The Panel shall be appointed by the Standing Committee on a termly basis, following a formal application process, by the second week of the term, subject to the approval of the General Committee.

(lxix) The Panel shall be composed of three members, including the Chair and two ordinary members:

- (a) The Office Manager as the Chair, serving as a representative of the Trustees of the Society.
- (b) A former elected Officer of the Society *in statu pupillari*.
- (c) A current or former member of the Rules Committee.
- (d) Should an ordinary member of the Panel resign from their position during their term, a replacement shall be appointed by the Standing Committee, subject to the approval of the General Committee, for the remainder of the term, following the same specification and application as per (b) and (c)

(lxx) The Panel shall work as follows:

- (a) Following the confirmation of the Panel, Standing Committee shall immediately notify members of the Society of the members on the Panel and how they can be contacted, which shall include a provision for anonymous submission.
- (b) Following the submission of a complaint, the panel shall meet with the President and the Standing Committee to discuss the complaint.
  - (i) Following this meeting, the panel shall begin an investigation if a simple majority of panel members deem it necessary
- (c) Once an investigation has begun, the panel should collect evidence. This may include:
  - (i) Witness testimony
  - (ii) Photographs and video or audio recordings
  - (iii) Correspondence between individuals under investigation. The panel has no authority to demand evidence.
- (d) Immediately prior to concluding an investigation, the panel must notify any concerned individuals and offer them the opportunity to state their case.
- (e) The investigation may be concluded if:
  - The panel reaches a unanimous verdict after reviewing the available evidence.
  - (i) After two weeks of an investigation being opened, the panel unanimously agrees there is insufficient evidence to reach a verdict.
  - (ii) The investigation has been open for three weeks in which case a simple majority may agree (a) a verdict or (b) that there is insufficient evidence to reach a verdict.
- (f) Once a verdict is reached, the panel may recommend to the President and Standing Committee: a censure, suspension or a Vote of No-Confidence.
- (g) Should the alleged incident occur on the property of 24 NBC, once a verdict is reached, the panel may advise the suspension or expulsion of individuals from 24 NBC to Standing Committee in accordance with the Rules of the North Bailey Club.
- (h) The panel may pass evidence to the University Student Conduct Office at any stage of the investigation if the panel finds the individual to be in breach of the University Codes of Practice.
  - (i) Any report produced by the Panel shall be considered their work on behalf of the Society and therefore belong solely to the Society.

(lxxi) Should a complaint be made against a member(s) of the Panel, that member(s) shall be stood down from the Panel after all active investigations are concluded. An interim member(s) shall be appointed by the Standing Committee for the durations of the investigation into the member(s) concerned.

(lxxii) Should a complaint be made by a member of the Panel, that member shall recuse themselves from the investigation process.

(lxxiii) Should a member of the panel voluntarily recuse themselves from, an interim member shall be appointed as per the provisions of (lxix).

(lxxix) Should an ordinary member of the panel derelict their duty or bring the society into disrepute, a Vote of No-Confidence may be passed against them before the General Committee as specified under SO III (6).

# Schedules

## Schedule I – Definitions and Abbreviations

The following expressions and abbreviations shall be defined as follows:

<i>the Rules</i>	The Society’s Deed of Trust, this Constitution and the Standing Orders.
<i>the Chamber</i>	The Society’s Debating Chamber in the Union.
<i>the Colleges</i>	The following colleges of the University: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) University College,</li><li>(ii) Hatfield College,</li><li>(iii) St. Chad’s College,</li><li>(iv) St. John’s College,</li><li>(v) the St. Cuthbert’s Society,</li><li>(vi) the College of St. Hild and St. Bede,</li><li>(vii) St. Mary’s College,</li><li>(viii) St. Aidan’s College,</li><li>(ix) Trevelyan College,</li><li>(x) Collingwood College,</li><li>(xi) Grey College,</li><li>(xii) Ustinov College,</li><li>(xiii) Josephine Butler College,</li><li>(xiv) George Stevenson College,</li><li>(xv) John Snow College, <i>and</i></li><li>(xvi) Van Mildert College</li></ul>
<i>their deputy</i>	That competent Member whom the concerned Officer calls upon to act in their stead; the Treasurer shall normally act as the President’s immediate deputy; assistant officer shall normally act as the immediate deputy of their associate full officer.
<i>cl</i>	Constitutional clause
<i>in good order</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) During General Meetings, in accordance with the Rules and the wishes of the House, as personified by the Chair, or personified by the Chair and amended by the House;</li><li>(ii) when voting in a Presidential election, in accordance with the Rules as enforced by the officials of the Society or as enforced by the officials of the Society and amended by the Rules Committee; <i>elsewhere</i></li><li>(iii) in accordance with the Rules and with the wishes of the President, or in accordance with the Rules and with the wishes of the President as represented by the officers, officials or members of staff of the Society, or in accordance with the Rules and with the wishes of the President as represented by the Officers, Officials or members of staff of the Society and amended by the General Committee.</li></ul>

<i>in the usual places</i>	On the ‘Durham Union Members’ Facebook page.
<i>Member of the University</i>	Those members of the University who are <i>in statu professori</i> or <i>in statu pupillari</i> and graduates of the University.
<i>Members in residence</i>	Those members of the University who are <i>in statu professori</i> or <i>in statu pupillari</i> .
<i>Members in statu professori</i>	Those members of the Society employed by the University or one of the Colleges in an academic capacity.
<i>Members in statu pupillari</i>	Those members of the Society who ‘keep term’ as defined under General Regulation V of the University Calendar 1997 – 1998 or the relevant Regulation of succeeding University Calendars.
<i>Professional Accountant</i>	A member of one or more of the following bodies: (i) the Institute of Chartered Accountants, (ii) the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants, <i>or</i> (iii) the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants.
<i>the Union</i>	The premises of the Society
<i>the University</i>	The University of Durham
<i>Canvassing</i>	(1) A deliberate attempt to acquire political support or votes for an election, group, or ‘bloc’.  (ii) A deliberate attempt to discover information or opinions by asking people in relation to an election, manifesto, pledges and so on.
<i>Simple majority</i>	More than half of the valid votes cast

## **Schedule II – Societies Enjoying Reciprocal Relations with the Society**

The Society has reciprocal relations with the following societies:

- (i) the Oxford Union Society;
- (ii) the Cambridge Union Society;
- (iii) Edinburgh University Union;
- (iv) the College Historical Society of Trinity College, Dublin;
- (v) the Philosophical Society of University College, Dublin; *and*
- (vi) the Philosophical Society of University College, Cork.

# Standing Orders

## Standing Order I – General Meetings

### 1. Ordinary General Meetings

- (a) The President shall have the sole right to call Ordinary General Meetings.
- (b) The Secretary shall give a minimum of seventy-two hours written notice of Ordinary General Meetings in the usual places and throughout the University.
- (c) The President shall call a minimum of seven Ordinary General Meetings in the Michælmass and Epiphany terms and a minimum of three in the Easter term.
- (d) A member may introduce guests to an Ordinary General Meeting, with the permission of the President. Guests shall take no part in Private Business nor move procedural motions. Guests shall not normally be in residence.
- (e) Subject to §3, during an Ordinary General Meeting, members of the House shall be allowed to ask questions of Officers, and of the President relative to their official duties.

### 2. Extraordinary General Meetings

- (a) The following shall have the power to call an Extraordinary General Meeting:
  - (i) The President,
  - (ii) the General Committee, *or*
  - (iii) any member supported by the signatures of thirty members or one fifth of the membership *in statu pupillari* whichever is the lesser.
- (b) The Secretary shall give a minimum of sixty hours written notice of Extraordinary General Meetings in the usual places.
- (c) The sole purpose of an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be the transaction of Private Business.

### 3. Quoracy

- (a) A General Meeting of fewer than twelve members shall be deemed quorate at the discretion of the President.

### 4. The Chair

- (a) General Meetings shall be chaired by the President or their deputy, who shall be a member of the General Committee.
- (b) The Chair shall be the sole arbiter of the rules of debate.
- (c) The Chair shall have the power to call upon any person to explain or withdraw any expression or conduct which they consider improper.
- (d) The Chair shall have the power to expel any disorderly person from the House.
- (e) A member of the House shall have the right to ask the Chair, on a point of order, to exercise their powers under (c) or (d), should they consider any person's expression or conduct improper.

## 5. The Minutes

- (a) The Secretary shall be responsible for the keeping of the minutes of General Meetings.
- (b) The minutes of General Meetings shall be available for the inspection of members in the Union's Office.
- (c) In each General Meeting, the minutes of the previous General Meeting shall be:
  - (i) read aloud by the Secretary or their deputy;
  - (ii) amended as the House requires;
  - (iii) confirmed by a vote of the House and
  - (iv) signed by the Chair and the Secretary or their deputy.

## 6. Private Business

- (a) For the duration of Private Business, a General Meeting shall be deemed to be in committee.
- (b) Private Business shall consist of one or more of the following:
  - (i) motions tabled in accordance with SO III §3,
  - (ii) questions and reports of Officers, relative to their official duties, *and*
  - (iii) the elections to the Constituent Committees as set out in SO V.

## **Standing Order II – Ordering of Committees**

### 1. Convening of Committees

- (a) Committees shall be convened by their chair or co-chairs. Chairs shall be obliged to convene them at the earliest opportunity if petitioned by a majority of their members or the President.
- (b) The secretary of a sub-committee shall be responsible for providing its membership with adequate notice of committee meetings.
- (c) No committee meeting shall proceed unless a minimum of one half of that committee's membership is present.
- (d) Members of a Committee shall be under a duty to attend all meetings of the Committee.
- (e) Should any ordinary member of any of the Constituent Committees fail to attend three meetings of any of the committees of which they are a member in one term, without giving reasonable notice to the Secretary or their deputy for General Committee, or the Chair of the relevant Constituent Committee then it shall be deemed that the concerned member has resigned and they shall no longer be a member of the General Committee or any of the Constituent Committees.
- (f) Should any ordinary member of any of the Constituent Committees derelict their duties on three occasions in a single term, they may be removed from their position by the unanimous decision of the President, Returning Officer and the Chair of that Constituent Committee.
  - (i) The Chairs of the Constituent Committees shall be responsible for clearly communicating, in writing, what constitutes a dereliction of duty to the ordinary elected members of their Committees.
  - (ii) Should an ordinary member of a Constituent Committee derelict their duties on two occasions in a single term, the Chair of that Constituent Committee shall notify the Returning Officer, who shall communicate a formal warning to the concerned member, in writing.

### 2. The General Committee



- (a) The General Committee shall act on behalf of the membership to ensure that the Union be organised and managed in the best interests of its membership. It shall especially:
  - (i) oversee the Union's finances as set out in SO IV;
  - (ii) elect officers and committees as required by the Union and subject to the Rules.
- (b) Reports of Officers
  - (i) The President shall submit a report to the Committee on the first and final meeting of each term.
  - (ii) The President-elect shall submit a report to the Committee at the final meeting of each term.
  - (iii) The Social Secretary and the Sponsorship Secretary shall both submit a report to the Committee at the first meeting of each term.
  - (iv) The Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee at the second meeting of each term.
  - (v) The Custodian and the Director of Debating shall report to the Committee at the final meeting of the Easter term.
  - (vi) The Speakers Secretary of the President shall submit a report in the first General Committee of each term.
  - (vii) The Treasurer shall:
    - (i) submit full termly management accounts for the previous term to the Committee at the second meeting of each term accompanied by a written analysis of the term's financial impact on the Union.
    - (ii) submit full management accounts for the previous year at the second meeting of the Michaelmas term accompanied by a full written report on the Society's financial situation analysing how the year passed compares with the previous years.
    - (iii) present a budget for the coming year to the Committee at the second meeting of the Michaelmas term.
    - (iv) present revised budgets at the second meeting of the Epiphany and Easter terms.
  - (viii) The Returning Officer shall submit a report to the Committee at the meeting immediately following any Presidential election, including a summary of any decisions of the Rules Committee made since the previous report.
  - (ix) The Committee shall mandate any Officer, Official or Committee to report in addition to those mentioned here.
  - (x) The Equalities Officer shall submit a report to the Committee at the final meeting of each term.
- (c) The Committee shall meet on at least three occasions each term.
- (d) Notwithstanding SO II §1(c), a meeting of this Committee shall be quorate if one third of its members be present.
- (e) The Committee shall be chaired by the President or their deputy who shall be a member of the Standing Committee.
- (f) The Committee shall be minuted by the Secretary or their deputy<sup>23</sup>. The minutes of the Committee shall be accessible to Members. The Secretary, or their deputy shall further ensure that an up-to-date list of motions in force is kept and accessible to members.
- (g) Any member of the General Committee unable to attend a meeting of the General Committee shall have the right to nominate a member of the General Committee to act as their proxy for the duration of a particular meeting. Nominees must be in possession of their mandate to vote, which shall be wholly in the member's own hand, a copy of

which should be in the hands of the Returning Officer before the meeting begins.

- (h) Any member of the Union may attend and speak at meetings of the Committee, subject to the Chair's discretion, though they shall not vote, nor propose or second motions.
- (i) The Committee shall take all binding decisions by means of the passing of a resolution.
- (j) The Committee shall have the power to arrange forthcoming events and to remit their immediate control partly or wholly to a person or a body other than the concerned President. Such events shall have no right to call upon the concerned Presidential account.
- (k) Should the President vacate their office before the end of their term, the Secretary shall immediately convene the Committee, which shall be chaired by the Treasurer. The Committee shall take such action as it deems necessary.
- (l) Should a President-elect vacate their office the Secretary shall immediately convene the Committee. The Committee shall take such action as it deems necessary.
- (m) The Committee shall not give money to political causes.

### 3. The Standing Committee

- (a) The Standing Committee shall oversee the day-to-day running of the Union. It shall especially:
  - (i) oversee relations between the Union and other persons and bodies, in particular the University of Durham;
  - (ii) liaise with the Trustees and be responsible for reporting all decisions to them;
  - (iii) be immediately responsible for relations between the Union and its staff,  
*and*
  - (iv) advise the President.
- (b) The Committee shall meet on at least four occasions each term.
- (c) The Committee shall be chaired by the President or their deputy and meet in open session. In the event that the President deem the Committee's business best kept confidential in the interests of the Union the Committee may hold a meeting in closed session and, if the Committee agree, continue to discuss the reserved business in that closed session. Should the Committee not agree to meet in closed session, the meeting shall return to open session and the business be discussed there.
- (d) The Committee shall be minuted by the Secretary or their deputy<sup>24</sup>. The Committee shall have the right to keep any part of its proceedings confidential, as may be deemed in the interests of the Union.
- (e) The members of the Committee shall have the power as a body and individually to expel from the Union's premises any member whom they consider to be endangering the good name of the Union.

### 4. Meetings of the Trustees

- (a) A meeting shall be called to consist of the Union Society's Trustees; the Standing Committee; and the Office Manager.
- (b) Such a meeting shall be called at the discretion of the Trustees, to be no less than once per term.
- (c) The meeting shall be chaired by the Chair of Trustees or their deputy and minuted by the Secretary.

### 5. The Rules Committee

- (a) The Rules Committee shall ensure on behalf of the General Committee that the Union's elections be conducted in accordance with the following general principles:
  - (i) All elections should be fair and seen to be fair;

- (ii) all members should have and be seen to have an equal chance to vote;
  - (iii) all elections should be conducted with the minimum of personal animosity and
  - (iv) all elections shall be conducted in a manner which does not injure the Union.
- (b) In the pursuance of the aims set out in (a) the Rules Committee shall have the power to rule candidates for elections out of order.
- (c) The Committee shall be chaired by the Returning Officer or their deputy.
- (d) Further to SO II §1(c), a meeting of this Committee shall not be quorate unless at least four of its members be present.
- (e) The Committee shall be minuted by a member of the Committee selected by the Returning Officer. The minutes of the Committee shall be available to members, provided that the Committee shall have the right to keep any part of its proceedings confidential, as it deems in the interests of the Union.
- (f) Impartiality of the members of the Committee
- (i) Members of the Committee shall not openly support candidates in any election.
  - (ii) Should they either wish to stand as a candidate in an election, or act in open support of a candidate, ordinary members of the Committee shall have the right to stand down for the duration of an election<sup>27</sup>.
  - (iii) Should the Committee consider any of its members to be openly partial in regard to an election, it may require them to stand down for the duration of that election.
- (g) Where:
- (i) the Returning Officer is unable to convene a quorate meeting of the Committee owing either to the operation of (f)(ii) or (iii), or to the resignation of members or to the inability of members to attend a meeting, *and*
  - (ii) no meeting of the General Committee is convened prior to the next meeting of the Rules Committee, *and*
  - (iii) the meeting of the Rules Committee is one required by the provisions of the Rules,
- the Returning Officer, or their deputy, shall have the power to co-opt Members to the Committee. Such members shall serve only until the next meeting of the General Committee.

## 6. The Debates Committee

- (a) The Debates Committee shall consist of the Director of Debating, the Debate Training Secretary, the Debate Competitions Secretary, the Debate Schools Secretary, the President, the Treasurer, the Assistant Secretary and up to four ordinary members elected in accordance with cl (xxvi).
- (b) The Debates Committee shall assist the Director of Debating, the Debate Training Secretary, the Debate Competitions Secretary and the Debates Schools Secretary.
- (c) The committee shall be chaired by the Director of Debating, or their deputy.
- (d) The committee shall be minuted by a member of the committee selected by the Director of Debating for that purpose. The minutes of the Committee shall be accessible to Members.
- (e) The Debates Selection Committee (DSC)
  - (i) There shall be a sub-committee of the Debates Committee called the Debates Selection Committee.
  - (ii) The DSC shall consist of the Director of Debating, the Debate Training Secretary, the Debate Competitions Secretary, the Debates Schools

Secretary, the Treasurer and President.

(iii) The DSC shall be chaired by the Director of Debating and shall be minuted by a member selected by the Director of Debating for that purpose.

(iv) The DSC shall:

1. adjudicate on applications, *and*
2. select debating coaches, tournament conveners and any other position it deems necessary, in accordance with cl (xxvi).

## 7. The Sponsorship Committee

- (a) The Sponsorship Committee shall assist in encouraging outside bodies to provide support for the activities of the Union.
- (b) The Committee shall be chaired by the Sponsorship Secretary, or their deputy.
- (c) The Committee shall consist of the Sponsorship Secretary, the Treasurer and five ordinary members elected in pursuance of cl (xxv).
- (d) The agenda for meetings of the Committee shall be set by the Sponsorship Secretary and the Chair shall call upon an ordinary member of the Committee to minute the meeting. The minutes of the committee shall be accessible to members.
- (e) The Chair may appoint a Senior member of the Committee out of the ordinary members, who shall deputise for them when needed

## 8. The Technologies Committee

- (a) The Technologies Committee shall organise the recording of all Main Debates, Emergency Debates, Speaker Events and General Meetings.
- (b) The Committee shall be chaired by the Technologies Officer, or their Deputy.
- (c) The Committee shall consist of the Technologies Officer, Deputy Technologies Officer, Publicity Officer, Custodian and Assistant Custodian.
- (d) The agenda for meetings of the Committee shall be set by the Technologies Officer who shall call upon another member of the Committee to take minutes. The minutes of the Committee shall be accessible to members.
- (e) The Committee shall:
  - (i) Maintain and develop the Society's existing audio-visual capacity.
  - (ii) Ensure that event recordings are promptly placed on the Society's website and on the Society's YouTube channel.

## 9. The Social Committee

- (a) The Social Committee shall assist the Social Secretary in the organising of social events and in the generating of concepts for social events.
- (b) The Committee shall consist of the Social Secretary, the President, the immediate President-elect and five ordinary members elected in accordance with cl (xxiv).
- (c) The Committee shall be chaired by the Social Secretary.
- (d) The Chair shall call upon an ordinary member of the Committee to minute the meeting. The minutes of the Committee shall be made accessible to Members.
- (e) The Chair may appoint a Senior member of the Committee out of the ordinary members, who shall deputise for them when needed.

## 10. The House Committee

- (a) The members of the House Committee shall:
  - (i) assist in the running of Union events;
  - (ii) act as sergeants-at-arms at General Meetings;
  - (iii) represent the opinions of the House to the General Committee; *and*
  - (iv) perform such other tasks as the Steward may require.
- (b) The House Committee shall normally consist of ten members in the Michaelmas and Epiphany terms and eight members in the Easter term.
- (c) The Steward may appoint a Senior member of the Committee out of the ordinary members, who shall deputise for them when needed.

## 11. The Secretary's Committee

- (a) The Secretary's Committee shall consist of the Secretary, Publicity Officer and the College Secretaries. Meetings shall be chaired by the Secretary or their deputy, and the chair shall call upon an ordinary member to take minutes. The minutes of the Committee shall be made accessible to Members.
- (b) There shall be the following College Secretaries, elected by the members of the Society *in statu pupillari* at an ordinary meeting:
  - (i) The University College and Hatfield College Secretary
  - (ii) The St Chad's College and St John's College Secretary
  - (iii) The St Cuthbert's Society (Bailey and Parson's Field) Secretary
  - (iv) The St Mary's College and Trevelyan College Secretary
  - (v) The Collingwood College and Grey College Secretary
  - (vi) The St Aidan's College and Van Mildert College Secretary
  - (vii) The Josephine Butler College and Stephenson College Secretary
  - (viii) The John Snow College and South College Secretary
  - (ix) The College of St Hild and St Bede and University Estates Secretary
- (c) The Committee shall form the chief link between the colleges and the Union.
- (d) The Secretary's Committee shall:
  - (i) distribute publicity to the colleges of the University and carry out any other publicising or promotional work stipulated by the Secretary or Publicity Officer;
  - (ii) use social media to promote the Union by sharing Union events, establishing college group chats and by any other means directed by the Secretary or Publicity Officer;
  - (iii) act as the first port of call for members of the Society within the Colleges they represent;
  - (iv) recruit members of the Colleges they represent to join the Union;
  - (v) represent issues unique to their Colleges in the General Committee; *and*
  - (vi) meet regularly in order to discuss ideas for the future development of the Union.
- (e) The committee shall normally meet no less than three times in the Michaelmas and Epiphany terms and at least once in the Easter term.
- (f) The Chair may appoint a Senior member of the Committee out of the ordinary members, who shall deputise for them when needed.
- (g) In the first instance, College Secretaries must be elected from those members of the Union in their first year of undergraduate study at the University and who are members of one of the colleges to which they are elected to represent.

- (i) Should the position fail to be fulfilled in the first instance, it shall be opened to all *in statu pupillari* members of the Union who are in their first year of undergraduate study at the University.
  - (ii) If the position still cannot be filled, it shall be opened to all members of the Union *in statu pupillari*.
- (h) In the first instance, the College of St Hild and St Bede and University Estates Secretary must be elected from those members of the Union in their first year of undergraduate study at the university.
  - (i) Should the position fail to be filled in the first instance, it shall be opened to all members of the Union *in statu pupillari*.

## 12. The President's Committee

- (a) The President's Committee shall assist the President in the finding of speakers for events and the general running of the term's events.
- (b) The Committee shall consist of the Speakers Secretary of the President, the Speakers Secretary of any Presidents-Elect, the Equalities Officer, the President, any Presidents-elect and eight ordinary members elected in accordance with cl (xxvii).
- (c) The Committee shall be separated into two groups both consisting of four ordinary members respectively. The President and President-elect immediate shall delegate duties to the two groups respectively.<sup>15</sup>
- (d) The Committee shall be chaired by the President, and they shall call upon an ordinary member to take minutes. Minutes of the Committee shall be accessible to members. The two groups within the Committee shall have their duties discharged by the President and Speakers Secretary.
- (e) The Speakers Secretary may at their discretion engage the full committee of eight ordinary members to assist in inviting speakers for beyond the term of the President-Elect, in accordance with their mandate as outlined in cl (xxxiv).

## Standing Order III - Motions

### 1. Main Business Motions

Motions debated in the Main Business of Ordinary General Meetings shall be organised as the President sees fit. The President may at their sole discretion further hold Emergency Debates prior to the Main Business of a General Meeting. The above debate's conclusions shall be the only ones deemed to express the views of the Union on external issues.

### 2. Motions before a Committee

Motions before a committee<sup>16</sup> shall have a proposer and a seconder, and shall generally be debated in the following manner:

- (a) The proposer shall move the motion and answer any questions directed to them through the Chair;
- (b) the Chair shall ask for formal opposition to the motion and if none is forthcoming ask the meeting to pass it on a general aye; otherwise
- (c) an opposer shall speak against the motion;
- (d) general discussion of the motion shall ensue at the discretion of the Chair;
- (e) first the opposer and then the proposer shall be given the opportunity to summate their cases; *and*
- (f) the meeting moves to a vote<sup>17</sup> at which the Chair shall have a casting vote only.

### 3. The Tabling of a Substantive Motion

- (a) Ordinary motions of Private Business and motions at General Committee shall be submitted to the Secretary or their deputy not less than seventy-two hours in advance of the concerned meeting.
- (b) The Secretary shall give a minimum of sixty hours written notice of motions of Private Business in the usual places. The Secretary shall give a minimum of seventy-two hours written notice of motions at General Committee to all members of the Committee.
- (c) Extraordinary motions of Private Business and extraordinary motions at General Committee may be moved without prior notice at the discretion of the Chair. Such motions shall be of null effect in so far as they amend the Rules.

### 4. Motions of Amendment

- (a) Motions of amendment require a proposer and seconder and may be moved at any time during the discussion of a substantive motion.
- (b) Once moved, such amendments must be passed or rejected by the meeting before the meeting returns to its consideration of the substantive motion.
- (c) No two motions of amendment may come concurrently before the meeting.

### 5. Procedural Motions

- (a) Procedural Motions may be moved on a point of order in General Meetings and in Meetings of the General Committee.

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<sup>16</sup>Or the House whilst it is in Committee

<sup>17</sup>Should a ballot be required the Returning Officer, or their deputy, shall be called for and it shall be conducted like an ordinary election.

- (b) Should a Procedural Motion be moved at a General Meeting, the meeting shall be deemed in committee<sup>18</sup> whilst the motion be debated.
- (c) Procedural Motions shall take precedence over all other business and are themselves listed below in order of precedence<sup>19</sup>:
  - (i) that a ruling of the Chair be overturned;
  - (ii) that the meeting be closed;
  - (iii) that the meeting be adjourned for a given time;
  - (iv) that the meeting move to a vote;
  - (v) that the question not be put;
  - (vi) that the question be remitted to another place
  - (vii) that the question be laid on the table;
  - (viii) that the question be adjourned;
  - (ix) that the question be taken in parts.
- (d) Procedural motions shall be debated in accordance with §2 with the additional provision that should (c) (i) be moved the chair of the meeting shall cede their office to a deputy whilst the motion is debated.

## 6. Motions of No-Confidence

- (a) In cases of a member of the General Committee's substantial or prolonged mis-performance or dereliction of duty; or bringing the Society into disrepute, a motion expressing a lack of confidence in that member may be moved in accordance with the provisions of this section.
  - (b) Such a motion of no-confidence may only be moved if seven days' notice has been given both in the usual places and to all members of the Committee.
  - (c) Additionally, such a motion may only be moved if *either*:
    - (i) it is seconded by not fewer than a third of the Committee, in addition to the member proposing the motion; *or*
    - (ii) it is proposed by the President and seconded by not fewer than two other members of the Standing Committee.
  - (d) Any member named in a motion of no-confidence shall have the opportunity to defend themselves.
  - (e) The vote on such a motion must be held by secret ballot, conducted by Rules Committee.
  - (f) A Motion of No-Confidence may only be passed if a simple majority of the votes cast are in favour of the motion.
  - (g) Should the motion be negatived, no further motion of no-confidence may be moved against that member for the remainder of the current term and the whole of the following term without the consent of the Standing Committee.
  - (h) Should the motion be passed, except against a President or President-elect, the member concerned shall immediately, notwithstanding cl (xxxix), cease to hold any Office or position in the Society whatsoever and an election shall be held as if they had resigned.
  - (i) Should the motion be passed against a President or President-elect, the member concerned shall immediately cease to hold any Office or position in the Society and the General Committee shall proceed immediately as required by SO II §2 (k) or (l) respectively.

<sup>18</sup> Which means that §2 will apply.

<sup>19</sup> It would be out of order to move a lower precedence motion whilst a higher one is being debated.



- (j) Any member removed by a vote of no-confidence shall not be counted as a past Officer, Past-President, or similar, for the purposes of any provision of the Rules or any resolution of any Committee.

## 7. Ceding the Chair

Should the Chair wish to speak on a motion they shall cede their position to their deputy whilst the motion is debated.

## Standing Order IV – Finance

### 1. The Treasurer

The finances of the Society shall be administered by the Treasurer on behalf of the General Committee.

### 2. Budgets

- (a) The Treasurer in conjunction with the Standing Committee shall be responsible for the setting of the Union's annual budget, which shall be ratified by the General Committee.
- (b) There shall be no significant expenditure in excess of these budgets without the approval of the General Committee.

### 3. Accounts

- (a) The Treasurer shall produce full termly income & expenditure statements for the Union's accounts. These shall be presented to and approved by the General Committee<sup>20</sup>.
- (b) The Treasurer shall engage a professional accountant to prepare the Union's annual accounts.

### 4. The Presidential Account

- (a) Each President shall finance their term from their Presidential Account.
- (b) The account shall be credited with an allowance from the General Account, the amount of which shall be determined in the Union's annual budget.
- (c) Net expenditure in excess of the budgeted resources of the Account shall be held to be the President's personal responsibility. Unless General Committee approves such expenditure it shall be the President's personal liability.

### 5. Subscription Rates

- (a) The General Committee shall set the subscription rates of the Union.

### 6. Bedroom Rates at 24 North Bailey Club

- (a) The rental rates for each bedroom in 24 North Bailey Club will rise automatically each year by 1.5% plus RPI.
- (b) Extraordinary rises in rental rates can only be proposed by the Standing Committee and are to be ratified by the General Committee, subject to SO III.

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<sup>20</sup> As part of the Treasurer's termly report, see SO II §2(b)(vii)

## Standing Order V – Election Regulations

### 1. General

- (a) Unless otherwise stated, all elections shall be conducted in line with the Single Transferable Vote procedure, as defined by the Electoral Reform Society of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- (b) Candidates for elections shall be *in statu pupillari* Members of the Union.
- (c) Candidates shall have a proposer and a seconder who shall be *in statu pupillari* Members of the Union.
- (d) The Returning Officer shall be responsible for the adequate publicising of all elections.
- (e) The Returning Officer shall keep the papers relative to all elections for a period not less than one calendar month<sup>22</sup>.
- (f) Further to any responsibilities under SO II §5(f):
  - (i) the Returning Officer, the President, the Presidents-elect shall not openly support candidates in any election other than to cast their vote in a secret ballot;
  - (ii) in elections to an office, the immediately previous holder of the office shall not propose or second candidates;
  - (iii) in elections for an office which is an assistant, the member of Standing Committee to which that office is subordinate shall not propose or second candidates and vice versa;
  - (iv) in Presidential elections all Past-Presidents shall not support any candidate;  
*and*
  - (v) in elections to the Constituent Committees, the chairman of the committee shall not propose or second candidates;
  - (g) In the event that no candidate comes forward during the period of open nominations, a re-election<sup>23</sup> shall be held in accordance with these Standing Orders.
- (h) Upon the vacating of a position, an election or by-election shall be called by the Returning Officer to be held within one term-time week (excluding the University examination period) of the position being vacated.
- (i) In the event that an election be tied, the tied candidates may choose to see the election decided by the fair toss of a fair coin. Otherwise a re-election shall be held in accordance with these Standing Orders.

### 2. Re-Open Nominations

- (a) In all elections, excepting those to the Rules Committee and those held at General Meetings, in addition to the nominated candidates there shall be an additional option on the ballot papers entitled 'Re-open Nominations' (RON).
- (b) The RON option shall be treated as a normal voting option in the election.
- (c) Should the RON option achieve quota a re-election shall be held in accordance with these Standing Orders.

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<sup>22</sup> This is the same time period as the time limitations of complaints and appeals.

<sup>23</sup> Which shall be treated for all purposes like an ordinary election

### 3. Presidential Election

- (a) Subject to (f), a Presidential election shall be held during the term which occurs two terms prior to that term which presidency it elects.
- (b) Submission of Nominations
  - (i) In the first instance, persons nominated for the post of Michaelmas or Epiphany President must:
    - 1. Have served as a Full Officer of the Society, entitled to sit on the Standing Committee, for a period of no less than 30 term-time days.
  - (ii) If after the nomination period for Michaelmas or Epiphany President has closed, the Returning Officer has received no valid nominations, they shall immediately re-open nominations in accordance with the Standing Orders and the persons nominated for Michaelmas or Epiphany President must:
    - 1. Have served as a Full Officer of the Society, entitled to sit on the Standing Committee for a period of no less than 14 term-time days *or*
    - 2. Have attended ten General Committee meetings as a member of the General Committee
  - (iii) In the first instance, the persons nominated for Easter President must:
    - 1. Have served as a Full Officer of the Society, entitled to sit on the Standing Committee, for a period of no less than 30 term-time days *or*
    - 2. Have attended ten General Committee meetings as a member of the General Committee.
  - (iv) If after the nomination period for Easter President has closed, the Returning Officer has received no valid nominations, they shall immediately re-open nominations in accordance with the Standing Orders and the persons nominated for Easter President must:
    - 1. Have attended five General Committee meetings as a member of the General Committee.
  - (v) In the event that an election for President is held in which the Re-open nominations option achieves quota, a re-election shall be held in accordance with the Standing Orders. In this re-election, the eligibility criteria for President shall be the same as the eligibility criteria for the election in which the Re-open nominations option won.
  - (vi) Nominations shall be received by the Returning Officer:
    - 1. From a day of the President's choosing, generally between the second and sixth week of term and in any case far enough prior to the end of term as to allow a re-election should one become necessary under §1(g) or §2(c), *and*
    - 2. for a period of not less than five days.
  - (vii) Nominations shall be constituted and scrutinised as set out in §8.
- (c) Campaigning & Husting
  - (i) At two p.m. on a day not more than twelve and not less than seven days before the election day campaigning shall begin. At this time the Returning Officer shall announce nominations, place a copy of each candidate's manifesto in the usual places and upload copies of candidate's manifestoes onto the website.
  - (ii) Candidates shall not campaign prior to this time and should take great care not to appear so to do.
  - (iii) Candidates may be assisted by a campaign team. All members of a campaign team must be *in statu pupillari* members of the Society and must be approved by the Returning Officer. No amendments to a candidate's team will be permitted after the polls open. A candidate's proposer and seconders shall

automatically be members of a campaign team.

- (iv) The Rules Committee may, from time to time, set limits on the size of campaign teams.
- (v) No person may be added to a campaign team unless a letter, signed by that person, is delivered to the Returning Officer.
- (vi) Candidates must make their campaign team aware of all election rules and regulations and will be responsible for all the activities of members of their campaign team.
- (vii) All candidates' written publicity must be approved by the Rules Committee and must conform to the provisions of §9.
- (viii) At some stage during the period of campaigning the President shall call a General Meeting at which hustings shall be held as set out in §7, at which candidates shall normally hust for no more than ten minutes and proposers shall hust for no more than eight.

(d) Polling

- (i) Over a twenty-four hour period starting from six p.m. one evening to six p.m. the following evening on a date selected by the Rules Committee, not less

than seven and not more than twelve days after campaigning has begun, polling shall take place.

- (ii) The submission of ballots will be take place electronically through an online system.
- (iii) In the event of a technical fault or other extra-ordinary circumstances, the Rules Committee, with the consent of all candidates, may substitute an alternative ballot submission system.
- (iv) No candidate, their proposer or seconder or any member of their campaign team may come within ten yards of any members in the process of casting their vote.
- (v) Where a member in residence is unable to vote by means of the procedure set out in (ii), the Rules Committee may, at their sole discretion, accept from the member a postal or other paper ballot. Such votes shall be:
  1. wholly in the member's own hand; *and*
  2. submitted to the Returning Officer by five p.m. on the day the polls close.

(e) The Count

- (i) The Returning Officer shall convene the Rules Committee to conduct the count<sup>24</sup>.
  - (ii) Each candidate may nominate a member of the Union to be present at the count as their Independent Observer.
  - (iii) The Count shall normally begin in the evening of the polling day.
  - (iv) Should there be a discrepancy of greater than or equal to five percent between the number of votes cast and those registered, the ballot box shall be ruled out of order.
  - (v) If after the first count the votes cast for the first and second placed candidates are within five percent of each other, there shall be a re-count.
- (f) Should a re-election be required by these Standing Orders, the Rules Committee shall hold it as soon as is practicable. It shall be treated as a normal Presidential Election.

(g) Campaign Regulations and Costs

- (i) The Rules Committee shall determine what limits shall be placed on campaigning methods, devices, and techniques at its meeting immediately prior to nominations opening. Any method, device, or technique shall be deemed prohibited unless permitted by the Committee.
- (ii) The Rules Committee shall permit, subject to such limitations as they deem suitable, at a minimum:
  1. the distribution of manifestos directly to members;
  2. the display of posters across the University;
  3. the use of electronic campaigning methods, *inter alia*, the internet, telephones, and other mobile communication devices; *and*
  4. canvassing of members.
- (iii) The following activities shall be prohibited in all elections:
  1. any and all campaigning on Society premises and at the North Bailey Club;
  2. the display of posters without permission or where prohibited; *and*

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<sup>24</sup> This is a full meeting of the Committee, with the usual quorum of five members.

3. any method, device, or technique likely to breach the Candidates' Code of Conduct, as determined by the Rules Committee.
- (iv) The Rules Committee shall determine the maximum amount that candidates shall be permitted to spend on their election campaigns at the meeting immediately prior to the nominations opening.
- (v) The regulations made by the Rules Committee under (i) and (iv) above shall be publicised in the usual places for the duration of the election process, including the period in which nominations are open.
- (vi) All expenditure deemed to benefit a candidate's campaign shall be considered election expenditure, except that expenditure which is met by the Union.
- (vii) The Union shall pay half the cost of the printing of the manifestos of each candidate.
- (viii) Should candidates make use of a cheap source of materials or services, these shall be accounted for at a rate agreed by the Returning Officer.
- (ix) All Candidates shall present a full record of their election expenditure and any other details required by the Rules Committee as part of their regulations under (i) above to the Returning Officer prior to the close of polling.

#### 4. Elections at General Committee

- (a) Subject to (b) and (c) an election shall normally be held at the meeting of the General Committee immediately subsequent to the office becoming vacant.
- (b) The Rules Committee may change the date of any election to held at a meeting of the General Committee if appropriate.
- (c) Elections shall be publicised to the members of the General Committee at least five days in advance of the election.
- (d) Canvassing shall be forbidden.
- (e) Nominations
  - (i) Nominations for those Officers listed in cl (xxxii) shall be:
    1. received by the Returning Officer:
      - a. from the day following the resignation of the previous officer,
      - b. for a minimum of five days, *and*
    2. constituted and scrutinised as set out in §8.
  - (ii) Nominations for those officers listed in cl (xxxiii) and for Returning Officer, Technologies Officer, Deputy Technologies Officer and Publicity Officer shall be made to the Returning Officer by a candidate's proposer<sup>25</sup> at the beginning of the election.
- (f) Manifestos & Husting:
  - (i) In elections where manifestos are required, the Returning Officer shall distribute a copy of each candidate's manifesto to members of the General Committee at least forty-eight hours in advance of the concerned meeting of the General Committee<sup>26</sup>.
  - (ii) In elections to the positions outlined in cl (xxxii) candidates shall normally hust for a maximum of five minutes and proposers for a maximum of four minutes.
  - (iii) In elections to the positions outlined in cl (xxxiii) candidates shall normally hust for no more than five minutes and proposers shall not hust.

<sup>25</sup> This is delivered verbally at the meeting of the General Committee.

<sup>26</sup> Conventionally, these are also displayed in the usual places.

- (i) In elections to the positions of Returning Officer, Technologies Officer and Publicity Officer, candidates shall normally hust for no more than four minutes and proposers shall hust for no more than three minutes.
  - (ii) In elections to the position of Deputy Technologies Officer, candidates shall normally hust for no more than four minutes and proposers shall not hust.
  - (iii) In elections to the Rules Committee candidates shall normally hust for a maximum of two minutes and proposers shall not hust.
  - (iv) After all candidates for election or all proposers have husted the chair shall open the floor to questions. Questions shall be asked through the chair and must be addressed to all candidates or all proposers. The length of questions and the response of each candidate or proposer to the question shall not normally exceed one minute.
- (g) Voting Procedure
- (i) Polling shall take place at the Secretary's table immediately following the hustings.
  - (ii) The Returning Officer and the Rules Committee shall be responsible for the proper and accurate distribution of ballots to each member of the General Committee, immediately prior to polling.
  - (iii) The Count shall be conducted by at least two members of the Rules Committee.
- (h) Should a re-election be required by these Standing Orders, it shall be held at the next meeting of the General Committee and shall be treated as a normal election.

## 5. Elections at Debate Training Sessions

- (a) The elections to those Officers listed under cl (xxxiv) shall take place at or before Debate Training Sessions.
- (b) The procedure for these elections is outlined under *Appendix – Regulations Governing Debate Elections*
- (c) All Debate Officers must be ratified by General Committee following their election by the Debate Training Session. They shall hust at the next General Committee meeting after their election for no more than 5 minutes, and their proposer need not hust. There shall then be the opportunity for members to ask questions of the candidate directed through the Chair. The candidate may then be elected by a General Aye, or by simple majority should there be any opposition.
- (d) Appeals against the decision of the Election Committee shall be heard by Rules Committee, and any further appeals shall follow the procedure outlined in Sections 11 and 12 of this Standing Order.
- (e) *Appendix – Regulations Governing Debate Elections* may be amended by the Debates Selection Committee subject to ratification by the Rules Committee.

## 6. Elections at General Meetings

- (a) The elections to the House Committee shall normally be held at the second Ordinary General Meeting of the Michaelmas and Epiphany terms, and the first Ordinary General Meeting of the Easter term.
- (b) The elections to the Social Committee and the Sponsorship Committee shall normally be held at the third Ordinary General Meeting of the Michaelmas and Epiphany terms, and the second Ordinary General Meeting of the Easter Term.
- (c) The elections to the President's Committee will normally be held at the first Ordinary General Meeting following the election of the President. Four ordinary members of the Committee shall be elected during every election cycle

- (i) In the event of a resignation of an ordinary President's Committee member, a by-election must not be called and the position shall be left vacant if the resignation is within 10 calendar weeks of the beginning of the academic term the President-Elect's term falls in.
- (d) The elections to the Secretary's Committee shall normally be held at the second Ordinary meeting of Michaelmas term and the first Ordinary meeting of Epiphany term.
- (e) The elections to the Debates Committee shall be held as required when candidates are nominated by the Debates Selection Committee.
- (f) Elections, including all available positions and deadlines for the submission of nominations, shall be publicised to Members at least five days in advance of the election, on the 'Durham Union Members' Facebook Group at a minimum.
- (g) The Rules Committee may change the date of any election to be held at a General Meeting if appropriate.
- (h) By-elections shall be held at General Meetings as and when required.
- (i) Nominations shall be received by the Returning Officer from the day one week prior to the elections until noon on the day of the elections.
- (j) A valid nomination for elections at General Meetings comprises an email from the proposer's Durham University email address stating the candidates' name and the fact they wish to propose that candidate.
- (k) Hustings shall be held at the General Meeting at which the elections are to take place. Candidates shall normally hust for a maximum of two minutes, and proposer shall not hust.
- (l) Polling shall take place at or immediately after the General Meeting. In House Committee elections all full members present at the General Meeting shall be entitled to vote, in other elections all full Members present at the General Meeting and in residence shall be allowed to vote.
- (m) In the event that there are the same number of, or fewer nominations than there are positions available, the candidates in that election may be elected on a General Aye. Should there be any opposition to a General Aye, the election shall be held as normal with the Re-Open Nominations option added to the ballot. Any candidates receiving more votes than the Re-Open Nominations option shall be elected. Any candidates receiving fewer votes than the Re-Open Nominations option shall not be elected, and a re-election shall be held for these remaining positions in accordance with these Standing Orders.
- (n) In the event that there are fewer nominations than there are positions available and these existing candidates are taken on a General Aye in accordance with (l), or there are no valid nominations, the remaining positions may be immediately opened to new nominations which shall be submitted verbally at the General Meeting<sup>27</sup>.
- (o) While elections may take place during or immediately after a General Meeting, procedural motions that bear on the business of Rules Committee may not be moved during elections.
- (p) The Count shall be conducted by at least two members of the Rules Committee.

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<sup>28</sup> These remaining positions may then be elected as normal at the same General Meeting with the new nominations as candidates.



## 7. Hustings

- (a) For the duration of hustings the Returning Officer or their deputy shall take the chair<sup>29</sup>.
- (b) Candidates shall hust and then answer any questions directed at them through the chair<sup>30</sup>.
- (c) Where these standing orders make such provision, proposers shall hust in their candidates' name and then answer any questions directed at them through the chair, whilst the candidates are absent from the room.
- (d) Where a candidate is unable to attend hustings, the Returning Officer may at their discretion allow the candidate's nominee<sup>31</sup> to hust in their stead.

## 8. Written Nominations

- (a) Where these Standing Orders make provision for the submission of written nominations they shall consist of:
  - (i) a letter of proposal signed by a proposer and one seconder; *and*
  - (ii) a draft manifesto containing a photograph of the nominee
- (b) The Rules Committee shall scrutinise nominations, draft manifestos and photographs within forty-eight hours of the closure of nominations and shall declare invalid:
  - (i) any nominations not conforming to the requirements of (a), subject to §11 and shall notify the candidate in writing;
  - (ii) manifestos contravening §9, subject to §11, and shall inform the candidates of the decision in full.
- (c) A candidate whose manifesto has been rejected may revise it and re-submit it to the Rules Committee for further consideration. Should the manifesto remain invalid at the start of campaigning the Returning Officer may declare the nomination invalid, subject to §11.

## 9. The Candidates' Code of Conduct

- (a) Candidates shall not indulge in personal attacks on opposing candidates that are irrelevant to their suitability for office.
- (b) Candidates shall not indulge in irrelevant personal attacks on any other member of the Union.
- (c) Candidates shall not bring the Union into disrepute.
- (d) Candidates shall not be untruthful, nor distort the truth.
- (e) Candidates shall not act in bad taste.
- (f) Candidates should ensure that their supporters conform to this Code of Conduct.

## 10. Electoral Misdemeanours

- (a) The Rules Committee shall determine electoral misdemeanours as falling into one of the following categories:
  - (i) Electoral Irregularity, which shall be defined as any technical infringement of the rules.

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<sup>29</sup> Although they need not actually sit in it.

<sup>30</sup> The order in which candidates answer questions rotates in the interest of fairness.

<sup>31</sup> Who may be their proposer.

- (ii) Electoral Misconduct, which shall be defined as infringing the candidates' Code of Conduct, but without perverting the course of democracy.
  - (iii) Electoral Malpractice, which shall be defined as perverting the course of democracy.
- (b) Further to (a) Rules Committee shall have the power to impose the following penalties:
  - (i) rule candidates for election out of order
  - (ii) limit a candidate's election budget
  - (iii) limit the number of days for which a candidate may campaign
  - (iv) remove an individual from a candidate's campaign team
  - (v) limit a candidate's use of any electoral method, device, or technique
  - (vi) withdraw the Society's subsidy for the printing of manifestos.
- (c) In all cases where the Committee rules a candidate to have committed Electoral Malpractice, that candidate shall be ruled out of order.
- (d) In cases of grave electoral malpractice, or electoral malpractice not attributable to any candidate, the Rules Committee may rule the election out of order and hold a re-election as soon as practicable.

## 11. Complaints

- (a) Any member may make a complaint to the Rules Committee concerning the conduct of an election or the conduct of any candidate in an election.
- (b) The Committee is bound to hear all such complaints made prior to the count, and may also consider complaints made after the count if they see fit.
- (c) No complaints or appeals shall be heard by the Committee after one calendar month has elapsed from the date of the election.
- (d) Should any plaintiff or defendant be dissatisfied with the decision of the Rules Committee they may revert to the Rules Committee to seek a revision of their decision.
- (e) Should any plaintiff or defendant wish to appeal against a decision made by the Rules Committee under (d) they shall appeal to the Appeals Tribunal.

## 12. Appeals

- (a) The Appeals Tribunal shall normally consist of the President, one Trustee of the Society nominated by the Trustees annually and one member, selected by lot, from a panel of qualified persons<sup>32</sup>. The panel shall comprise:
  - (i) all members who have served two terms on the Rules Committee still in residence;
  - (ii) all former Returning Officers still in residence; *and*
  - (iii) all former members of the Standing Committee in residence provided that no currently serving member of the Rules Committee or the General Committee, nor any former office-holder removed from office by a vote of no-confidence, shall be included in the panel.
- (b) The Tribunal shall be chaired by the President.
- (c) The Rules Committee shall be represented by the Returning Officer or their deputy. Any plaintiff or defendant shall put their own case.

<sup>32</sup> Provided, obviously, that no person who is either a supporter of any candidate or a member of the current Rules Committee who has been involved in the decision being appealed will be included.

- (d) All parties and the Appeals Tribunal shall have the right to call whichever witnesses they see fit.
- (e) Appeals Tribunal proceedings shall be held in closed session and any deliberations shall remain confidential.
- (f) The Appeals Tribunal shall deliberate and reach a decision in accordance with the Rules.
- (g) The decision of the Appeals Tribunal shall be published in the usual places.
- (h) All plaintiffs, defendants and the Rules Committee shall receive full reasons for all decisions in writing. The reasons for the decisions should remain confidential.
- (i) In the event that the Appeals Tribunal cannot be convened within a reasonable time, it shall be postponed and the electoral process suspended, until it can be held and has reached a decision.
- (j) All decisions made by the Appeals Tribunal shall be both final and binding on all concerned<sup>33</sup>.

## Standing Order VI – Internal Debating Competitions<sup>34</sup>

### 1. The Robson Cup

- (a) The Robson Cup exists in memory of F. A. B. Robson (Hatfield College) and of his generosity to the Society, and is the competition to find the Society’s best debater in *statu pupillari*.
- (b) The Cup shall be awarded in the Easter Term of each year.
- (c) Every member of the Society in *statu pupillari* shall be eligible to enter the Cup with the exception of the President.
- (d) Selection of the Finalists
  - (i) The President shall select six members to compete in the final of the Cup, unless more are required under the provision of (ii) or insufficient interest is shown in the competition to fill it, chosen according to the procedure outlined below.
  - (ii) Any previous winner of the competition, still a member of the Society *in statu pupillari*, shall be offered a place in the final without requirement to compete in any preliminary rounds.
  - (iii) The President may further offer a number of members places in the final without requirement to compete in any preliminary rounds. The total number of members selected in this manner shall not be such that the number of members selected under this provision and that of (i) exceeds three.
  - (iv) The President shall choose the balance of the finalists from those who do best in the preliminary rounds of the competition.
- (e) Preliminary Rounds
  - (i) Where necessary, the President shall hold preliminary rounds for the Cup at some time in the fortnight preceding the final.
  - (ii) The choice of judges and motions for the rounds and the overall format of the competition shall be at the discretion of the President with the consent of the Standing Committee.
- (f) The Final

<sup>33</sup> Note cl (lii) concerning the limitation of the force of motions.

<sup>34</sup> Many of the duties of the President in this Standing Order are generally delegated to the Director of Debating.

- (i) The President shall arrange for the final of the Cup to take place as the main business of an Ordinary General Meeting.
- (ii) The motion for the final shall be chosen by the President.
- (iii) The judges of the competition, whose decision shall be final, shall be chosen by the President and shall consist of at least one person not *in statu pupillari* and three in all.
- (iv) The Cup shall be presented by the chairman of the judges.

## 2. The Robson Shield

- (a) The Robson Shield exists in memory of F. A. B. Robson (Hatfield College) and of his generosity to the Society, and is the award for the member in residence who has made the year's best speech in the main business of an Ordinary General Meeting.
- (b) Every member of the Society in residence shall be eligible to win the Shield with the exception of the year's three Presidents.
- (c) The winner of the Shield shall be chosen by a meeting of the year's Presidents. Where no exceptional speech has been made in a year, the President shall have the right to declare the Shield unawarded.
- (d) Subject to (c) the Shield shall be awarded at the last General Meeting of the Easter term following the accession of the incoming Michaelmas-term President to the chair, presented by the President in whose term the best speech was made.

## 3. The Inter-Collegiate Debating Trophy

- (a) The Inter-Collegiate Debating Trophy exists as the competition to find the University's best constituent college debating team.
- (b) The Trophy shall be awarded in the Epiphany Term of each year.
- (c) Teams
  - (i) Teams of two members shall be eligible to enter the competition where both members are recognised by the University as members of the same constituent college *in statu pupillari*.
  - (ii) The President shall select four teams to compete in the final of the Trophy.
  - (iii) Where more than four teams enter the competition, the President shall choose the finalist teams from those who do best in the preliminary rounds of the competition.
- (d) Preliminary Rounds
  - (i) Where necessary, the President shall hold preliminary rounds for the Trophy at some time in the fortnight preceding the final.
  - (ii) The choice of judges and motions for the rounds and the overall format of the competition shall be at the discretion of the President with the consent of the Standing Committee.
- (e) The Final
  - (i) The President shall arrange for the final of the Trophy to take place as the main business of an Ordinary General Meeting.
  - (ii) The motion for the final shall be chosen by the President.
  - (iii) The judges of the competition, whose decision shall be final, shall be chosen by the President and shall consist of at least one person not *in statu pupillari* and three in all.
  - (iv) The Cup shall be presented by the chairman of the judges.

#### 4. The Novice Cup

- (a) The Novice Cup is the competition to find the Society's best first- year debater in statu pupillari.
- (b) The Cup shall be awarded in the Michaelmas Term.
- (c) Every member of the Society *in statu pupillari*, for whom the current academic year is the first that they have entered any Inter-Varsity debating competitions (or the John Smith Memorial Mace), is eligible to enter the Novice Cup.
- (d) Selection of the Finalists
  - (i) The President shall select six members to compete in the final of the Cup, unless insufficient interest is shown in the competition to fill it, chosen according to the procedure outlined below.
  - (ii) Where more than six individuals enter the competition, the President shall choose the finalists from those who do best in the preliminary rounds of the competition.
- (e) Preliminary Rounds
  - (i) Where necessary, the President shall hold preliminary rounds for the Cup at some time in the fortnight preceding the final.
  - (ii) The choice of judges and motions for the rounds and the overall format of the competition shall be at the discretion of the President with the consent of the Standing Committee.
- (f) The Final
  - (i) The President shall arrange for the final of the Cup to take place as an item of business at an Ordinary General Meeting.
  - (ii) The motion for the final shall be chosen by the President.
  - (iii) Where possible, the competition shall be judged by the previous year's winner of the cup, whose decision shall be final. Otherwise the President shall appoint a nominee to judge the competition, whose decision shall be final.
  - (iv) The Cup shall be presented by the President.

## **Annexes**

### **Annex I – Conventions of the House**

1. How the President enters and leaves the Chamber is at their discretion.
2. The wearing of the Presidential gown is at the President's discretion.
3. How the officers sit is at the President's discretion.
4. How speakers sit is at the President's discretion.
5. Speakers shall address all speeches and points of order and information to the President.
6. A speaker shall give way on a point of order.
7. A speaker may give way on a point of information at their discretion; however, no points of information shall be made during the speeches of summation.
8. Those members speaking from the floor are requested to give their name and college at the start of their speech for the benefit of the Secretary.
9. The vote shall be held first by acclamation and, if this fails to yield a decisive result, then by division.
10. Members must switch off Mobile telephones before entering the Chamber.

### **Annex II – Concerning Dinners and Drinks**

1. The President should strive to use their pre-debate dinners for the benefit of the Society.
2. The President should try to invite to pre-debate dinners those members who have made special efforts for the Society which might be expected to include:
  - a. all members of the Standing Committee;
  - b. as many other officers and elected officials as practicably possible; *and*
  - c. as many of the past Presidents in residence as is practicably possible.
3. It is traditional for the previous term's President to be invited to the dinner before the farewell debate.
4. A drinks reception will normally be held after a debate to which the President shall generally invite:
  - a. all those officers who have spoken in the debate to the pleasure of the House;
  - b. all Officers and past Presidents in Residence; *and*
  - c. all those who attended the pre-debate dinner.

## Annex III – Concerning Debates Committee

This Annex shall be enforced by the Director of Debating at all times

Any member wishing to find out more about any of these roles in the Society should ask the Returning Officer, the Director of Debating or the current holder of the position.

### 1. The Competence and Electoral Procedures of the Debates Committee

- (a) Four candidates shall be nominated by the Debates Selection Committee for election to the Debates Committee. Eligible candidates for Debates Committee must have attended:
  - (i) at least five Monday Night Workshops;
  - (ii) at least four Intermediate Debating Practices; *or*
  - (iii) at least three Advanced Debating Practices.
- (b) The Debates Selection Committee (DSC) may adjudicate on the eligibility of candidates if the above criteria have not been met but other experience exists. The Returning Officer will be advised of this decision.
- (c) The DSC shall adjudicate on and hold two types of application processes;
  - (i) The DSC shall select teams and judges from the general membership for all Debating Competitions in accordance with §2.
  - (ii) The DSC shall select from the general membership, occupants for the following positions and any others that it deems necessary. Details of each role can be found within the Officers Handbook:
    - 1. Advanced Training Co-ordinator
    - 2. Intermediate Training Co-ordinator
    - 3. Novice Training Co-ordinator
    - 4. Schools Programme Co-ordinator
    - 5. Convener of the Durham Inter-Varsity Competition
    - 6. Convener of the Durham Open Competition
    - 7. Co-Convener of the Durham Schools Competition
    - 8. Co-Convener of the Durham Women's Open

### 2. Guidance on the Selection of Teams and Judges

- (a) The DSC will select teams and judges for all competitions except the World Universities Debating Championships and the European Universities Debating Championships.
- (b) The DSC should strive to make decisions by consensus, but where this is not possible the Director of Debating shall have the overriding vote. There are the following exceptions;
  - (i) In situations where the decision concerns the Director of Debating
  - (ii) In situations where the decision concerns either the Debate Training Secretary or the Debate Competitions Secretary, their vote becomes void.
- (c) Selections will be made according to the application process schedule as announced by the Director of Debating at the start of each term.

- (d) Selections will be made on the following criteria. Each criteria does not carry a set value or weight but will be assessed holistically by the DSC during the application process.
  - (i) Ability as determined by the candidates' previous competitive record, as well as their recent performances within training sessions and internal competitions.
  - (ii) The Societies potential gain as determined by the following measurements:
    - 1. The increase in prestige and quality of inter-institutional relationships that may be achieved for the Durham Union Society
    - 2. The development of an individual in terms of experience and/or performance.
  - (iii) Commitment as gauged by the applicants' attendance and attitude at training and other debating events given their individual circumstances.
- (e) Once selected, if the applicant is unable to attend the event then they must inform the DSC as soon as possible.
  - (i) If this occurs within ten days or less of the competition in question, then the applicant must find a satisfactory replacement.
  - (ii) If the applicant is unable to do so and unable to attend, then they must reimburse the Society for any expenditure. This is waived if the applicants' failure is linked to exceptional circumstances as judged by the DSC and the Treasurer.

### 3. Timings of Selections of Positions

- (a) The DSC will select the aforementioned positions.
- (b) The DSC will strive to select the positions within the following timescales:
  - (i) Advanced Training Co-ordinator, Intermediate Training Co-ordinator and Novice Training Co-ordinator in the eighth week of Easter Term
  - (ii) Schools Programme Co-ordinator in the eighth week of Easter Term
  - (iii) Durham IV Convener in the seventh week of Easter Term
  - (iv) Durham Open Convener in the sixth week of Epiphany
  - (v) Durham Schools Co-Convenor in the eighth week of Michaelmas
  - (vi) Durham Women's Open Co-Convenor in the seventh week of Easter Term.
    - 1. Only self-identifying women can apply for this position

### 4. Guidance on Notification and Selection of Positions

- (a) The DSC will set a date and time of the selection meeting.
- (b) The Returning Officer will notify members of any forthcoming selection meetings by the following means:
  - (i) placing of notices on the board outside the Chamber;
  - (ii) an announcement at a preceding Ordinary General Meeting; *and*
  - (iii) via email to the eligible members *in statu pupillari*.
- (c) These will be publicised at least one week before the selection meeting and applications will close one day before the meeting.
- (d) Applications for a position shall comprise a full written application, submitted to the Director of Debating by one p.m. on the day that applications close.



- (e) There shall be strictly no electioneering.
- (f) Selection meetings of the DSC shall scrutinise the written applications of candidates and then hold interviews of all candidates at their discretion.
- (g) The candidates shall be notified of the decision of the DSC within forty-eight hours of the DSC meeting. The decision shall then be advertised in the usual places.
- (h) Should there not be a successful applicant for the position; the position shall be re-advertised as above.
- (i) If the positions still fail to be filled after sufficient period had passed then they will be taken over by the Debate Training Secretary or Debate Competitions Secretary as deemed appropriate by the Director of Debating.

## 5. Guidance on selection of WUDC and EUDC teams and judges.

- (a) Selection for WUDC and EUDC shall not be conducted by the DSC.
- (b) The Director of Debating shall invite a panel (the size of which is at their discretion) of external and impartial arbiters.
- (c) This panel shall construct a selection process of their own choosing that retains the interests of the Society at its core.
- (d) The Director of Debating shall advertise a timescale for applications for trials to all eligible members. Eligible members are as defined by the WUDC and EUDC regulations.
- (e) The panel shall then scrutinise the applications and give trials to applicants at their discretion.
  - (f) The panel shall select the teams and judges as they deem appropriate, while retaining the best interests of the Society at its core.

## **Annex IV – Ballot Procedure for North Bailey Club Accommodation**

1. The Standing and General Committees of the Durham Union Society resolve that the following guidelines will determine the ballot for 24 NBC Accommodation:
  - (a) 5 points will be awarded for every day spent as President in Michaelmas term.
  - (b) 4 points for every day spent as President in Epiphany and Easter terms.
  - (c) 3 points for every day spent as a Full Officer of the Society or immediate President-Elect, entitled to sit on the Standing Committee under the Rules.
  - (d) 2 points for every day spent as an Officer of the Society or elected official of the Society
  - (e) 1 point for every day spent as a member of the General Committee, entitled to vote under any provision of the Rules.
  - (f) 1 point for every day spent as Novice, Intermediate or Advanced Debate Trainer as appointed by the Debates Select Committee on the Wednesday of the eighth week of Easter term. Points will be awarded for days served up to and including the Tuesday of the eighth week of the subsequent Easter term.
  - (g) 1 point for every day spent as Durham IV Convener, as appointed by the Debates Select Committee on the Wednesday of the seventh week of Easter term. Points will be awarded for days served up to and including the last day of the subsequent Durham IV competition.

- (h) 1 point for every day spent as Durham Open Convener, as appointed by the Debates Select Committee on the Wednesday of the sixth week of Epiphany term. Points will be awarded for days served up to and including the last day of the subsequent Durham Open competition.
- (i) 1 point for every day spent as Durham Schools Co-Convener, as appointed by the Debates Select Committee on the Wednesday of the eighth week of Michaelmas term. Points will be awarded for days served up to and including the last day of the subsequent Durham School's competition.
- (j) 1 point for every day spent as Durham Women's Open Co-Convener, as appointed by the Debates Select Committee on the Wednesday of the seventh week of Easter term. Points will be awarded for days served up to and including the last day of the subsequent Durham Women's Open competition.

## 2. Ballot Procedure

- (a) Where members hold multiple positions concurrently, they will be awarded points for the one position only, that which merits the highest number of points.
- (b) The Custodian will calculate the total number of points that an applicant is entitled to since joining the Society. The highest placed applicant will have first choice of the rooms, the second placed the second choice and so forth until all eight vacancies have been filled.
- (c) Points will be awarded for days in term time only.
- (d) In the event of a tie the Custodian will flip a coin
- (e) The ballot shall be run by or during the fifth week of Michaelmas term, with points calculated up to and including the Sunday of the second week of term.
- (f) Unless otherwise specified, days shall be determined from the date of election to the day before date of election of their successor.
- (g) All points accrued up to the drawing of the ballot shall be wiped once an applicant has successfully used them in a ballot
- (h) Members of the Society who have never held elected or appointed office will be considered only once all applicants who are entitled to at least 1 point under the above provisions are allocated rooms. Applicants from this category will be ranked by the number of days spent as a member of the Society. In the event of a tie, the Custodian will flip a coin.

# Appendix - Rules of the North Bailey Club

## Name, Object & Ownership

- (i) The name of the Club shall be the 'North Bailey Club', hereinafter referred to as 'the Club', colloquially known as '24s'.
- (ii) The chief objects of the Club shall be:
  - (a) to operate a bar for club members, as well as other specified persons, and
  - (b) to provide social events for its members.
- (iii) The ownership of the Club is vested in its Trustees, who shall have ultimate authority in the Club, subject only to the Deed of Trust.

## Status

- (iv) The Club shall be a members' club and shall consist of those classes of members specified in cl (viii).

## Supply of Intoxicating Liquor and Entry to the Club's Bar

- (v) The permitted hours for the supply of intoxicating liquor shall be as may from time to time be determined by the Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Licensing Act 1964, or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof, and as notified to the Clerk to the Justices
- (vi) Entry to the Club and the supply of Intoxicating liquor shall only be permitted to persons aged 18 or older.
- (vii) In addition to (vi) entry to the Club shall be permitted only to students in statu pupillari at the University of Durham, or Members of the Club. It shall be noted that the following exceptions apply:
  - (a) Guest speakers of the Durham Union Society, at the discretion of the President
  - (b) Guests of those persons admitted under (vii) (1 guest per person)

## Membership

- (viii) Membership shall be divided into Full Membership, Associate Membership and Temporary Membership.
- (ix) *Full Membership* shall be open to the following:
  - (a) Academic staff and members of the Senior Common Rooms of the departments and constituent Colleges of the University of Durham.
  - (b) Fellows of the University Society of the University of Durham
- (x) *Full Membership* shall be given to any person eligible under cl (ix) upon payment of the membership fee as determined from time to time by the Committee of Management. All members of the Club shall have the right to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting and to enjoy the use of the Club's facilities.
- (xi) *Associate Membership* shall be awarded to all Full Members of the Durham Union Society, who

shall not be required to pay any subscription fee. They shall enjoy the same rights as the Full Members.

## **Termination of Membership**

- (xii) A member shall cease to be a member:
  - (a) On the delivery to the Secretary of their written resignation.
  - (b) On expulsion from the club pursuant to the Rules on Suspension and Expulsion
- (xiii) Any Full or Associate Member may introduce up to four guests per day, to participate in club activities and use the facilities of the Club.
- (xiv) No person shall be allowed to participate in activities who has been expelled or suspended from membership.

## **Guests**

- (xv) Any Full or Associate Member may introduce up to four guests per day, to participate in club activities and use the facilities of the Club.
- (xvi) No person shall be allowed to participate in activities who has been expelled or suspended from membership.
- (xvii) No person whose application for membership has been refused or who has been expelled from the Club shall be introduced as a guest.

## **Suspension and Expulsion**

- (xviii) Members whose participation in club activities has been rendered undesirable may be expelled or suspended from entering the Club's premises following the Durham Union Society's Complaints Panel procedure, outlined in clause (lxi) of the Constitution of the Durham Union Society.
- (xix) Members or guests may be temporarily be suspended from the premises by staff on duty.

## **The Annual General Meeting**

- (xx) A General Meeting of the Club shall be held at least once per year and fifteen months must not elapse without a General Meeting.
- (xxi) The General Meeting will be called by the Custodian at any time, with seven days' notice. Notice shall be satisfactory if the meeting is advertised in the usual places.
- (xxii) A General Meeting may also be called by any member with full voting rights upon submission to the Secretary of a list of the signatures of thirty members, or of one fifth of the total number of members, whichever is the smaller.
- (xxiii) The General Meeting shall have the power to elect members of Committee of Management and shall also be a forum for the Full and Associate members to question the Officers of the Club.

## **The Committee of Management**

- (xxiv) The Committee of Management of the Club shall consist of eight members. Four of these shall be elected at the Club's Annual General Meeting. The remaining four members shall

be *ex officio* the President, Custodian, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Custodian of the Durham Union Society.

- (xxv) Potential candidates for the Committee of Management must be Full or Associate Members of the Club. Candidates may nominate themselves orally at the General Meeting, or be nominated by a proposer who must be either a Full or Associate Member of the Club.
- (xxvi) Meetings of the Committee shall be called by the Custodian, who shall give 10 days notice to the members of the Committee.

## **Officers**

- (xxvii) The President shall be the head of the Club and shall be the sole interpreter of Club Rules.
- (xxviii) The Custodian shall be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Club, as well as for the upkeep of the Club's facilities. The Chairman shall further be responsible for chairing the Committee of Management, as well as liaising with the Trustees.
- (xxix) The Assistant Secretary shall be responsible for the keeping of true and correct minutes, records and rules; and shall be responsible for the setting and distributing of agendas for General Meetings and the meetings of the Committee of Management.
- (xxx) The Assistant Custodian shall be immediately responsible for coordinating social activities of the Club. The Assistant Custodian shall further be responsible for the control and management of the Club's finances.

## **Ratification of Decisions**

- (xxxi) Decisions taken at General Meetings and by the Committee of Management of the Club will only be valid insofar as they are ratified by the Standing Committee of the Durham Union Society.

# Appendix – Regulations Governing Debate Elections

## 1. The Elections Policy

- a. This policy governs the election process for debating officers.
- b. This policy shall be updated by the Debates Selections Committee and ratified by the Rules Committee on a simple majority vote.
  - i. Changes to this policy are only allowed outside of election and appeals periods.

## 2. The Election Committee

- a. When there is an upcoming vacancy on the Debates Selections Committee, an ad hoc Election Committee shall be appointed by the Debates Selections Committee.
  - i. This marks the start of the election period.
- b. The Election Committee shall facilitate the election by being solely responsible for fairly applying this policy, adjudicating on any complaints which may arise, and deciding on areas where this policy may be unclear during the election period in a fair and equitable way.
  - i. If there are multiple upcoming vacancies on the Debates Selections Committee, the Election Committee shall run all elections concurrently.
- c. The Election Committee shall consist of 4 members.
  - i. A person is ineligible to be on the Election Committee if:
    1. They are interested in standing as a candidate in the election.
    2. They are the immediately previous holder of the office being elected.
    3. They have been previously banned from being on the Election Committee in accordance with (6)(d)(ii)(2).
- d. The members of the Election Committee shall be selected among current members who are not ineligible under (c)(i) and who, in decreasing order of priority:
  - i. Are current members of the Debates Selections Committee.
  - ii. Are past members of the Debates Selections Committee.
  - iii. Are current or past members of the Debates Committee or trainers.
  - iv. Are current or past members of the organisational committee of an external Durham competition.
  - v. Are eligible to vote in this election under (4)(b).
- e. The Election Committee shall be chaired by one of its members, as determined:
  - i. By the seniority of their position under the order in (d).
  - ii. By the total length of time they have held that position by the start of the election period.
- f. The Election Committee shall make all of its decisions by simple majority.
  - i. In the event of a tie, the Chair's vote shall be the tiebreaker.
- g. If a member of the Election Committee resigns before the end of the election period, the Chair shall find a suitable replacement, in accordance with the provisions of (c)(i) and (d).
- h. The Election Committee shall be disbanded at the end of the election period.

### **3. The Notice of Election**

- a. The Election Committee shall have discretion to set the date, time, and location for the Election Meeting.
  - i. Whenever possible, the date and time for the Election Meeting shall be:
    - 1. At least 10 calendar days after the start of the election period.
    - 2. Immediately before Novice Debate Practice or Intermediate Debate Practice.
  - ii. When any of the requirements in (i) cannot be reasonably satisfied, the Election Committee shall select an alternative date and time and include an explanation of their reasoning in the notice of election.
- b. The Chair of the Election Committee shall post the notice of election to the Durham Union Debating Facebook group.
  - i. The notice of election must include:
    - 1. The name and a brief description of the position to be elected.
    - 2. The date, time, and location of the Election Meeting.
    - 3. The names and current or past positions of all members of the Election Committee.
    - 4. A brief overview of the processes for running and voting.
    - 5. A call for those interested to contact members of the Election Committee for further information.
    - 6. A hyperlink to this policy.
    - 7. Any other information as required by any part of this policy.
  - ii. The Election Committee shall adequately advertise the notice of election, by liaising with the trainers and occasionally reposting it.

### **4. Eligibility to Vote and Stand for Election**

- a. The Election Committee shall produce a list of those eligible to vote and stand for election.
- b. All persons who have cumulatively attended at least 3 debating training sessions in Novice Debate Practice, Intermediate Debate Practice, or Advanced Debate Practice in the current academic year shall be considered eligible to vote.
  - i. If the election period overlaps with the first 5 weeks of Michaelmas Term, the Election Committee may choose to use attendance in the previous academic year to determine eligibility instead.
  - ii. The Election Committee shall request and receive a copy of the official attendance records from the Debates Training Secretary on the day of the Election Meeting to produce the final list of those eligible to vote.
  - iii. If a person has been barred from attending practices as per the Equity Policy before the start of the election period, they shall not be considered eligible to vote, regardless of their previous attendance record.
- c. All persons currently on a year abroad who cumulatively attended at least 3 debating training sessions in Novice Debate Practice, Intermediate Debate Practice, or Advanced Debate Practice in the previous academic year shall also be considered eligible to vote.
- d. All eligible voters under (b) shall be considered eligible to stand for election for Debates Competitions Secretary or Debates Training Secretary, unless they are currently banned from standing in elections in accordance with (6)(d)(ii)(2).

- e. All eligible voters under (b) who are current or past members of the Debates Selections Committee who have held their positions for at least 30 calendar days shall be considered eligible to stand for election for Director of Debating, unless they are currently banned from standing in elections in accordance with (6)(d)(ii)(2).
  - i. If no such candidates stand for election, all eligible voters under (b) who are current or past trainers, members of the Debates Committee, and members of the organisational committee of an external Durham competition who have held their positions for at least 30 calendar days shall be considered eligible to stand for election for Director of Debating, unless they are currently banned from standing in elections in accordance with (6)(d)(ii)(2).
  - ii. If no such candidates stand for election either, all eligible voters under (b) shall be considered eligible to stand for election for Director of Debating, unless they are currently banned from standing in elections in accordance with (6)(d)(ii)(2).

## 5. The Election Meeting

- a. The Election Meeting shall not be considered quorate unless there are 12 people present, including members of the Election Committee.
- b. The Election Meeting shall be chaired by the Chair of the Election Committee.
- c. There shall be no requirement for candidates to nominate themselves in advance of the Election Meeting.
  - i. Prospective candidates shall be allowed to contact the current holder of their desired position to enquire about the role during the election period.
- d. Prospective candidates shall be allowed to openly discuss their intention to stand for election and their ideas for their desired role during the election period.
  - i. The Election Committee shall reserve the power to issue warnings or bar any person from standing for election if they are found to:
    - 1. Have indulged in personal attacks on opposing candidates or other members that are irrelevant to their suitability for office.
    - 2. Have brought the Union into disrepute.
    - 3. Have been knowingly untruthful, or distorted the truth.
- e. The Election Meeting shall be open to all members, regardless of their eligibility to vote or stand for election under (4).
- f. The Chair shall ensure that the Election Meeting adheres to the following structure:
  - i. The Election Committee shall outline the relevant parts of this policy and answer any questions.
  - ii. The Chair shall ask candidates to verbally nominate themselves.
    - 1. Candidates shall be allowed to nominate themselves in absentia by contacting the Chair of the Election Committee before the Election Meeting.
      - a. Candidates in absentia may name a representative to speak on their behalf at the Election Meeting.
      - b. Members of the Election Committee, current or past members of the Debates Selections Committee, and other candidates may not act as candidates' representatives.
    - 2. There shall be no requirement for proposers or seconders.
  - iii. All candidates shall be invited to hush in their names for a maximum of 5 minutes.
    - 1. The order shall be alphabetical by last name.



2. Candidates shall be given a grace period of 30 seconds to conclude their points.
3. Candidates shall be allowed to directly compare their experience and skills to other candidates' in a civil and non-insulting way.
- iv. Members of the audience shall ask questions of candidates and candidates shall answer them.
  1. The order in which candidates speak shall be cycled through for every question.
  2. Those unable to attend the Election Meeting may pass on their questions to members of the Election Committee who shall pose them on their behalf.
  3. Members of the Election Committee shall be allowed to ask questions.
  4. The Chair shall not set a limit to the number of questions asked.
- v. A vote shall be conducted by secret ballot.
  1. At least two members of the Election Committee shall remain by the ballot box at all times.
  2. The Election Committee shall distribute paper ballots to those eligible to vote.
  3. Re-Open Nominations shall be a valid option.
  4. The single transferable vote method shall be used.
    - a. In the event of a tie, the winner shall be determined by a coin toss.
    - b. Candidates shall be ranked in decreasing order of preference.
    - c. There shall be no requirement for all candidates to be ranked.
  5. Eligible voters who are unable to attend the meeting may cast a vote in absentia.
    - a. Eligible voters may send their preference to at least two members of the Election Committee at any point between the start of the election period and the start of the count.
    - b. These members of the Election Committee shall fill out a paper ballot on behalf of the voter and send them a picture before casting it.
    - c. These members of the Election Committee shall disclose the identity of the voter but not how they voted to the rest of the Election Committee.
- vi. The Election Committee shall retire to a different room with the ballot box to conduct the count.
  1. Candidates or their representatives shall be allowed to observe the count.
  2. The Election Committee shall err on the side of considering ballots valid if the intention is clear beyond reasonable doubt, even if they are not strictly in order.
  3. The result shall be recorded and the ballots stored by the Chair of the Election Committee until the end of the appeals period.
- vii. The Chair shall announce the full result of the vote.
- viii. The Election Committee shall briefly outline the appeals process in accordance with (6).
- ix. The Chair shall close the meeting.
  1. This marks the end of the election period and the start of the appeals period.
- g. If Re-Open Nominations wins the most votes, the position shall remain vacant and the election process shall be restarted after the end of the appeals period.

## 6. The Appeals Process

- a. The Rules Committee shall be solely responsible for investigating and adjudicating on appeals against the process or results of an election in a fair and equitable way.
- b. The appeals period shall last a full calendar week.
  - i. If there are any pending appeals at the end of the appeals period, it shall be extended.
- c. An appeal shall only be considered valid if all the following conditions are met:
  - i. It is raised during the appeals period.
  - ii. It is raised by a member, regardless of their eligibility to vote in this election.
  - iii. It is substantial and not trivial or inconsequential.
  - iv. It is submitted in writing to the Returning Officer.
- d. When a valid appeal is raised, the Rules Committee shall review all the available evidence in a timely manner and reach a decision.
  - i. If the appeal is dismissed, the outcome of the election is upheld.
  - ii. If the appeal is upheld, the Rules Committee shall rule the election out of order.
    - 1. If the election is found to be perceived as generally unfair by a large number of members, the Rules Committee may rule it out of order, even if this policy was not violated.
    - 2. If a person is found to have knowingly violated or attempted to violate any part of this policy, the Rules Committee shall both:
      - a. Ban them from ever being appointed to an Election Committee or Appeals Committee.
      - b. Ban them from standing in elections for a calendar year.
  - iii. The Returning Officer shall communicate the decision and the reasoning behind it to the complainant in writing.
- e. If an election is ruled out of order the appeals period shall immediately end and the election process shall be restarted.
  - i. If the winner of the election has already been ratified in accordance with (7), they shall immediately cease to hold office.

## **7. The Ratification Process**

- a. The winner of the election shall be ratified by the General Committee at its first meeting following the end of the election period.
- b. The Chair of the Election Committee shall email the Returning Officer to put the winner of the election up for ratification.
  - i. This shall be done within a day of the end of the election period.
  - ii. Neither the winner of the election nor the Chair of the Election Committee need to sit on General Committee.
- c. The winner of the election shall be invited to hush for no more than 5 minutes.
- d. Members of the General Committee shall pose questions to the winner of the election and they shall answer them.
- e. The General Committee may ratify the winner of the election on a general aye.
  - i. If there is any opposition, a simple majority vote shall be taken, with the options being 'yes' and 'no.'

- ii. If the winner of the election is not ratified by the General Committee, an emergency meeting of the Debates Selections Committee shall be held to decide what to do next.
  
- f. The immediately previous holder of their position shall carry out a handover process.
  - i. The newly ratified Officer shall be given a handover document detailing ongoing tasks, priorities, and advice for the role.
  - ii. The newly ratified Officer shall be given the access credentials to all relevant online accounts.
  - iii. If the immediately previous holder of their position is unavailable, the rest of the Debates Selections Committee shall oversee the handover process.