

DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY: **START-UP SOCIETY CONSTITUTION**

1. **Name of Society:**

The name of the Society shall be '**START-UP SOC**', but may also more formally be referred to as 'The Start-up Society'. The abbreviated name of this society will be 'The SUS'.

2. **Aims and Objectives:**

- 2.1 To facilitate the practice of entrepreneurship - in all its forms - amongst members of the society.
- 2.2 To assist in the stages of business development, namely: idea generation, team formation, validation, planning, execution, evaluation, scalability, marketing, sustainability, and all other stages required to build, grow, and maintain viable businesses within the society.
- 2.3 To provide a platform for students seeking help on how to pursue and develop a business conviction they may have.
- 2.4 To enable members to pitch their business ideas to fellow members of the society, where then such individuals can opt to form a team to work on that particular project together.
- 2.5 To facilitate a space for individuals from all disciplines of study – both from a theoretical and practical standpoint – to network and socialize with one another.
- 2.6 To attract established entrepreneurs to come into the class on a voluntary basis, where they could share their own knowledge to help assist the members of the society in their ventures. These individuals are very easy to find, and are more often than not flattered by the invitation. They can be sourced via LinkedIn and through the use of the '6 degrees of separation' rule via the committee. This type of mentoring would be carried out on the basis of his/her availability.
- 2.7 To host special workshops on particular topics, where established entrepreneurs / business leaders / innovators would present their knowledge on their specialized topic, followed by a Q&A after the workshop is finished. This particular style of event would be open to all students, former students, and staff, but would - very clearly - be hosted by The Start-Up Society. Students could then, conveniently, sign up to the society after if they please. An example of a workshop could be "Hacks To Avoid Burnout And Build A Thriving Business".
- 2.8 To host annual competitions both internally (amongst the different projects within the society) and externally (with other college societies outside of DCU). Such competitions would be based and graded on the potential growth of the business, the viability, the pitch, how systematic it already is, and the potential returns of the business.
- 2.8 To actively promote the good culture in this society that primarily revolves around entrepreneurship. This can be achieved by following the precise 'Aims and Objectives' listed above.
- 2.9 The primary objective of this society is to support individuals in the start-up space. This is NOT to be abused by conforming to conventional activities where intense drinking and unproductive social activity is so prevalent.

3. **Members:**

- 3.1 Membership of the Society shall be open to all students, staff and graduates of the college.
- 3.2 Membership shall be obtained by paying the appropriate fee and signing the Roll of Members for the current academic year.
- 3.3 The Society recognizes the importance, experience, and knowledge that graduates and former students bring to the society, therefore we will endeavour to maintain contact with such former members as wish to retain their connection with the Society.
- 3.4 To this end the Governing Executive Committee of the Society shall be empowered to create a class of "Associate Members" of the Society.
 - Graduate Membership shall be open to former members of the society who are no longer students of Dublin City University. It shall not be a requirement of associate membership that such members should hold a degree or any other academic award give by Dublin City University.

- Associate Members shall pay an annual membership fee to the Society. The amount of this fee shall be determined by the Governing Executive Committee, but may be altered by a majority vote at a general meeting of the Society. The associate membership fee shall not be less than the ordinary membership fee and no more than 10 times the ordinary membership fee.
- Associate Members shall be ineligible for election to the society's governing committee.
- Associate Members shall be entitled to attend all general meetings of the society. Voting rights of associate members at general meetings shall be determined by the Governing Executive Committee and may be altered by a majority vote at a general meeting of the society.
- Other rights of Associate Members shall be determined by the Governing Executive Committee but may also be granted or revoked by a majority vote at a general meeting of the Society.
- The rights of an Associate Member shall not exceed those of an ordinary member of the society.

3.5 All members shall be bound by this constitution.

4. **Governing Executive Committee:**

- 4.1 The Society shall have a Governing Executive Committee (The Committee).
- 4.2 The Committee shall run the society on behalf of its members and in accordance with the aims and objectives and in compliance with the regulations set down by the Societies & Publications Committee.
- 4.3 Although decisions should be arrived at by the consensus of the committee (where possible), committee decisions shall be decided by majority voting.
- 4.4 The Chairperson shall in addition hold a casting vote.
- 4.5 A quorum shall be $\frac{2}{3}$ of committee members, with a requirement of the Chairperson to be present.
- 4.6 The Committee shall consist of:
- Chairperson
 - Vice-Chairperson
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Equipment Officer
 - Event Coordinator
 - Public Relations Officer
 - 1st Year Liaison Office
- 4.7 The Term of Office of these elected officers shall be one academic year.
- 4.8 In such circumstances where any member of the Governing Executive Committee ceases to engage with the society and/or hasn't attended 3 meetings in a row without valid reason/explanation, their position will be deemed vacant and will need to be replaced.
- 4.9 In such a case where the Chairperson resigns, or disengages with the society as specified in '4.8', he/she will be forced to resign and thereafter the Vice-Chairperson will automatically take position as Chairperson. A vacancy for the Vice-Chairperson position will then be open and appointed to the appropriate applicant based on his/her suitability, which will ultimately be decided by the Governing Executive Committee.

5. **Election of the Governing Executive Committee:**

- 5.1 The Committee Members shall be democratically elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or at an Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM).
- 5.2 To seek election to the Committee, each candidate must have 2 nominations by current members of the society.

6. **Duties of the Governing Executive Committee:**

- 6.1 The Chairperson shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the society whose functions include chairing all meetings of the committee and officiating at meetings of the society.
- 6.2 The Chairperson shall work alongside with all other committee members, and furthermore, oversee the activities being carried out as necessary by associated committee members of the society.
- 6.3 The Chair of any meetings shall have an ordinary vote at committee meetings and meetings of the society. In the event of a tied vote on any matter she/he shall have the casting vote.
- 6.4 The Vice-Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson in all their duties.
- 6.5 The Vice-Chairperson shall assume the duties of the Chairperson (unless otherwise directed by a general meeting of the society) in the event that the Chairperson is absent or is unable to perform their duties.
- 6.6 The Secretary's function shall be to deal with all correspondence and records of the society.
- 6.7 The Secretary keeps minutes of all committee meetings, of all general meetings, of the Annual General Meeting or any other meetings relating to the business of the society when requested by the committee.
- 6.8 The Secretary may keep a record of authorization of expenditure.
- 6.9 The Secretary shall give notice to all members of the society's meetings, events, and functions.
- 6.10 The Event Coordinators position shall be to work with the Secretary and Public Relations Officer (PRO) in coordination with each other to organize events - be it large or small - and to get sponsorship to facilitate this where necessary.
- 6.11 The Treasurer's function shall be to administer the funds of the society and to maintain accounts and budgets.
- 6.12 The Treasurer shall be responsible for the maintenance of accounts subject to the decision of the committee in compliance with the regulations set down by the Societies & Publications Committee of DCU.
- 6.13 The Treasurer shall keep full records of income and expenditure of the society. The Treasurer shall also keep a record of who authorized various expenditures and shall issue receipts.
- 6.14 The Treasurer shall sign all cheques and withdrawal forms for the Society's bank account.
- 6.15 Where the Treasurer is decreed as unavailable, another designated allocated by the Chairperson may sign cheques and withdrawal forms for the society on consultation with the Societies & Publications Committee.
- 6.16 The Equipment Officer shall be responsible for the fixed and current assets of the society in compliance with the regulations set down by the Societies & Publications Committee.
- 6.17 The Equipment Officer shall maintain a record of all fixed and current assets belonging to the society and will report an inventory list to the committee at the start and end of the academic year.
- 6.18 The Public Relations Officer (along with the Secretary) shall be responsible for the advertising of all functions of the society through all means possible.
- 6.19 The Public Relations Officer (along with the Secretary and Chairperson) shall deal with external correspondence and maintain records of the contribution outside bodies have had for the society and to give notice of all members of these contributions.

7. **Dismissal and Resignation of Committee Members:**

No member of the committee shall be dismissed from office unless:

- A written notice of a resolution to seek such a dismissal is received 4 working days prior to a general meeting, and is signed by a minimum of 3 committee members of the society. Even at such, a resolution shall be debated.
- $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Governing Executive Committee may also call a meeting to debate the dismissal of another committee member.

A resolution to dismiss a committee member shall be passed by a simple majority vote at the relevant and quorate meeting.

A committee member wishing to resign must submit a letter in writing declaring that intention to resign to the Secretary, who will immediately inform the committee as a whole. The responsibilities of that person shall be delegated to other committee member(s) until a by-election can be held to re-elect a new person to the position.

8. **Meetings:**

There shall be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) held each year.

The AGM shall be held no later than in the final month of the Academic year where the main committee members will be elected (where possible).

Elections for the offices of the Governing Executive Committee shall take place at this meeting.

A quorum of the meeting shall be 2 Governing Executive Committee members (one of which being the Chairperson), and 10% of the ordinary membership.

The business of the AGM shall include elections of relevant Executive Governing Committee as well as annual reports from the outgoing Governing Executive Committee (which should include a Treasurer's report on the finances of the society).

An Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be convened if:

- 10% of the ordinary membership of the society requests such a meeting in writing.
- A quorum of the Governing Executive Committee requests such a meeting in writing.
- A vacancy on the current committee occurs and there is a need to elect a replacement.

Elections for the offices of the Governing Executive Committee shall take place at the AGM or EGM (where relevant).

Notice of all meetings shall be given to the membership at least 3 working days prior to the date of the meeting.

At a meeting, a member may propose a resolution relating to the business of the Society. The resolution shall be voted on by a show of hands and a declaration by the Chairperson that the resolution is carried (unless a secret ballot is demanded by any 5 members) shall be conclusive evidence that the resolution has passed or failed.

In the event that the Chairperson's resolution is challenged a recount of the votes will be administered in which a number of appropriate people will be appointed by the committee as "tellers" to count the votes. The result will be announced by the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson (where requested by the general meeting).

No resolution may contravene DCU policy or Societies & Publications Committee.

9. **General:**

- 9.1 There shall be a President of the Society who shall be a staff member in compliance with the regulations set down by the Societies & Publications Committee.
- 9.2 The membership fee for the Society shall be in compliance with the conditions set down by the Societies & Publications Committee.
- 9.3 Each member of the Society shall be entitled to receive a copy of this Constitution, on demand, free of charge.
- 9.4 In the event of a clash with the Societies & Publications Committee Constitution, the Societies & Publications Committee Constitution shall take precedence above this constitution and is subject to Sports Societys Committee at all times.
- 9.5 In joining the Society, members agree to be bound by the rules and regulations of the Society as laid down in this constitution and by the Governing Executive Committee. Members violating these rules and regulations shall be answerable to the committee and may have their membership revoked and no monies refunded, for persistent breaches or extremely serious breaches, as deemed by a majority of the committee. In the event that the committee cannot resolve a dispute with a member(s), Societies & Publications Committee shall rule on the matter and its decision is final.

10. **Amendments to this Constitution:**

- 10.1 Notice of a proposal to seek an amendment to this Constitution shall be given to the members at least 4 working days prior to the meeting at which such a proposal shall be considered.
- 10.2 A proposal to amend this Constitution must receive the approval of the Chairperson and $\frac{2}{3}$ of the committee members present and entitled to vote at the relevant meeting.