

Constitution of the Dublin City University Labour Society

Section I: Name, Principles, Objectives, and Membership

Article 1. The title of the Society shall be the DCU Labour Society. Hereafter it is referred to as the Society.

Article 2. The aims of the Society are to:

- a. Provide members, potential members, sympathisers and supporters of the Labour Party and/or Labour Youth who attend or work at the University an outlet to formulate, discuss and campaign on their political beliefs; and
- b. Provide support for, and to facilitate involvement in, the wider Labour Party and Labour Youth through canvassing for local, national and European candidates, and attending events and conferences.

Article 3. The objectives of the Society are to:

- a. Campaign for, and raise awareness of, Labour Party and/or Labour Youth policies and goals;
- b. Foster healthy political debate throughout the University;
- c. Promote the political education and advancement of its members; and
- d. Make the views of its members known within the wider Labour Party and/or Labour Youth.

Article 4. There shall be two classes of membership:

- a. Ordinary membership of the Society shall be available to all University students and staff. Ordinary members shall be eligible to attend Society meetings, to vote in all Society referenda and to run for Committee positions within the Society, subject to further

provision in the relevant Constitutional articles. Subject to Labour Party and Labour Youth rules, they shall also be able to vote at National Youth Conferences and National Meetings, and run for positions within the national Labour Youth structures. Ordinary membership of the Society can be obtained by joining the Society mailing list and/or providing one's contact details to the Society.

- b. Party membership shall be available to all Society members who pay the annual fee to the Labour Party. In addition to all ordinary membership rights, they shall be eligible to vote at National Conferences, subject to Labour Party rules, and to run for positions within the wider Labour Party.

Section II: Committee Positions

Article 5. The Committee shall be composed entirely of members of the Society. Their responsibilities shall be detailed in Section III.

Article 6. The Committee shall have the following members elected from the membership of the Society:

- a. Chair
- b. Secretary
- c. Finance Officer
- d. Campaigns and Communications Officer
- e. Women and Trans* Officer
- f. Membership Development Officer
- g. First Year Representative

Article 7. A further role, Vice-Chairperson, shall be elected from amongst the Committee members as detailed in Section IV.

Article 8. Two further Committee positions shall be reserved for appointees to the Committee. The name of each of these positions shall be Ordinary Committee Member, or OCM, and at least one of those appointed OCMs will have served at least one term as a Committee member prior to appointment. Whether or not these posts are to be appointed in a given year shall be at the discretion of the Chair of that year.

Section III: Duties of Committee Members

Article 9. The duties of each Committee member shall be as follows:

- a. The Chair shall:
 - i. Chair all meetings of the Society and of the Committee and as such act as the sole judge of order at meetings, call on members to speak, put motions to a vote to the Society or Committee as necessary, declare the results of votes with the exception of votes involving the election of officials at General Meetings;
 - ii. Authenticate by signature the minutes of meetings;
 - iii. Exercise the casting vote in the event of a tie;
 - iv. Have the right to co-opt any member of the Society as an Ordinary Committee Member between General Meetings as the need arises and;
 - v. Communicate with the wider Party and Labour Youth section on behalf of the Society and inform the Society of all decisions taken by Party bodies that will have an effect on the Society

- b. The Secretary shall:
 - i. Write minutes of the proceedings of meetings;
 - ii. Maintain a record of attendance at meetings;
 - iii. Maintain a register of Society members; and
 - iv. Be responsible for records and correspondence, in particular with Labour Party Head Office.

- c. The Finance Officer shall:
 - i. Keep appropriate accounts and financial books and records;
 - ii. Control the finances of the Society; and
 - iii. Be responsible for applying for funding for events, apparatus, etc. from the Societies Guild.

- d. The Campaigns and Communications Officer shall:
 - i. Be responsible for the maintenance of the public profile of the Society;
 - ii. Be primarily responsible for the running of campaigns the Society takes part in;
 - iii. Maintain contact with the media on behalf of the Society;

- iv. Promote the society through traditional and emergent media, including (but not limited to) posters, flyers, social media, etc.;
 - v. Have responsibility for the designing, printing and distributing of Society literature.
 - vi. Be responsible for taking any position(s) allocated to the Society in any campaign sub-committee formed for the purpose of a joint campaign with other societies or organisations;
- e. The Women and Trans* Officer shall:
- i. Promote an ethos of, and focus on issues of, equality within the Society particularly with regard to the rights and participation of women and trans* people in the political process.
 - ii. Assist the Membership and Development Officer in the recruitment and retention of women and trans* identifying individuals within the Society.
- f. The Membership Development Officer shall:
- i. Take primary responsibility for the recruitment of new members to the Society, particularly during seasonal recruitment campaigns, with the support of the other Committee members;
 - ii. Be responsible for the integration and retention of new members, through the use of social events and other means, with the support of senior Society members; and
 - iii. Be responsible for the organizing of all Society social events with assistance and input from the wider membership.
- g. The First Year Representative shall:
- i. Represent the first year students of DCU to the Society;
 - ii. Represent the Society to the first year students of DCU; and
 - iii. Learn about the tasks undertaken by each Committee member both as a means of personal development and also to retain institutional knowledge for the next session of the Society.

Section IV: Election, Resignation, Replacement, and Impeachment of Committee Members

Article 10. The rules for election of members to Committee positions are as follows:

- a. Elections for the Committee positions listed in Section II Article 6 shall take place at General Meetings in the presence of a Societies Guild representative using a secret ballot and the Alternative Vote system; except
- b. In the case of an uncontested candidate for a given position, where the general consensus of the Meeting and the permission of the Societies Guild representative allows for the vote to be conducted via show of hands.
- c. The role of Vice-Chairperson as mentioned in Section II Article 7 shall be elected from amongst Committee members at a separate and private meeting, with the Chair deciding on the most appropriate means of voting. This role shall be taken on by an elected Committee member in addition to their other duties, and those members holding the position of Chair and Secretary shall be ineligible to also hold this role.
- d. Only “active” members of the Society may be eligible to vote at General Meetings. An active member is defined as someone who has attended two Society meetings, either concurrently or non-concurrently.
- e. The Committee positions listed in Section II Article 6 for a coming academic year may be elected at either the AGM at the end of the outgoing Committee’s term or at the EGM in October of the new academic year, except
 - i. Chair, Secretary, Finance Officer, Campaigns and Communications Officer and which must be elected at the AGM; and
 - ii. First Year Representative, which must be elected at the October EGM.

Article 11. The protocol in the case of resignations shall be as follows:

- a. Members of the Committee may resign by giving one week’s written notice to the Secretary, with the exception of the Secretary who may resign by giving notice to the Chair.
- b. Should the Chair resign, their duties shall fall to the Vice-Chair until an Emergency General Meeting (EGM) can be held to fill the vacancy. Such an EGM must take place within thirty days of the Chair resigning.
- c. In the event of a vacancy on the Committee due to resignation, the Committee shall have the power to co-opt any member of the Society to that position until the next General Meeting.

Article 12. Should the Society’s members feel that a Committee member’s actions run contrary to the aims, interests, or wishes of the Society membership, the decision can be brought to a vote via a petition containing the signatures of no less than one third of the Society’s active membership. The decision may then be overturned by a

simple majority vote via a secret ballot at a meeting to be held no more than three weeks after the petition has been received by the Chair.

Section V: Meetings

Article 13. Regular meetings of the Society shall, as far as is possible, be held weekly at a time and day agreed by the Society membership. Bearing in mind changing timetables, the time and day used shall be determined by ongoing Society consensus to ensure the flexibility needed for regular meetings.

Article 14. Committee meetings shall be held as often as deemed necessary by the Committee. However, at least two Committee meetings shall be held per term. The Secretary shall give at least two days notice of any meeting.

Article 15. An EGM may be called between General Meetings should the Committee deem it necessary or should a petition containing the signatures of no less than one third of the Society membership be presented to the Chair.

Section VI: Constitutional Amendments and Interpretation

Article 16. The Constitution of the Dublin City Labour Society may be amended by a resolution expressed to be for that purpose and passed by a two-thirds majority at a General Meeting.

Article 17. In all matters pertaining to the interpretation of this Constitution, or wherein the intention of the drafters may be unclear or unspecific, the Chair shall have sole authority to decide in the short-term on the correct interpretation. This may be overturned and put to review by a simple majority vote called at the next meeting of the Society.