



Bunreacht an Chumann 2020

Society Constitution 2020

1. Name of society

- 1.1 The name of the society shall be 'DCU Social Democrats'

2. Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 To facilitate the practice of DCU Social Democrats in all its forms
- 2.2 To encourage members to adhere to, promote and work towards the Social Democrats' core principles of progress, equality, democracy and sustainability
- 2.3 To assist society members in representing the society to the best of their ability, whilst adhering to core values of respect and tolerance
- 2.4 To provide a forum for members to interact and socialise
- 2.5 To encourage the use of the Irish language amongst society members, regardless of ability or proficiency
- 2.6 To encourage and facilitate society members' involvement with the Social Democrats

3. Membership

- 3.1 Membership shall be open to all students, staff members and graduates of Dublin City University who are not members of a society deemed to be affiliated with another political party
- 3.2 Membership shall be obtained by paying the appropriate fee and by signing the roll of members for the academic year in which the new member has signed up
- 3.3 All members shall be bound by this constitution
- 3.4 The society recognises the importance, experience and knowledge that graduates and former students bring to the society. Therefore, the society shall endeavour to maintain contact with such former members, should these former members wish to retain a connection
- 3.5 Further to article 3.4 of this constitution, the society's governing executive committee shall be empowered to create a class of 'associate member' of the society

- a) Associate 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 hold a degree, or any other academic award awarded by Dublin City University
- b) Associate members shall pay an annual membership fee to the society's treasurer. 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 five times the ordinary membership fee
- c) Associate members shall be ineligible for election to the society's governing executive committee
- d) 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
- e) 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
- f) The rights of an associate member shall not exceed those of an ordinary member of the society

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 the society's members, in accordance with the aims and objectives outlined in this constitution and with the regulations set down by the Societies and Publications Committee
- 4.3 Although decisions should be arrived at by consensus of the committee (where possible), committee decisions shall be decided by majority voting
- 4.4 A quorum shall be $\frac{2}{3}$ of committee members
- 4.5 The committee shall consist of:
 - Chairperson
 - Vice-Chairperson
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Public Relations Officer (PRO)
 - First-Year Liaison Officer
- 4.6 The term of office of these elected officers shall be one academic year
- 4.7 A member shall not hold the same office for more than two successive years

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 two nominations from current members of the society
- 5.3 In the event of an election for a committee position in which there are more than two candidates, the method of election will be single transferable vote (STV) by secret ballot. Each ballot paper must show text in both the English and Irish languages (equally), and show three 'validation signatures' (non-copied signatures of three different members of the society, one of whom must be an ordinary member), to be deemed a valid ballot paper. A sample ballot paper must be shown to all members (in person or via a suitable online platform) at least two days before the election is held. The same members who provided 'validation signatures' for the ballot papers shall be appointed as 'tellers' to count the votes. The result shall be announced by the chairperson or vice-chairperson

6. Duties of the Governing Executive Committee

- 6.1 The chairperson shall be the chief officer of the society whose functions include chairing all meetings of the committee and officiating at meetings of the society
- 6.2 The chair of any meeting shall have an ordinary vote at committee meetings and ordinary meetings of the society. In the event of a tied vote on any matter, he/she shall have the casting vote
- 6.3 The vice-chairperson shall assist the chairperson in performing all their duties
- 6.4 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
- 6.5 The secretary shall deal with all correspondence and records of the society
- 6.6 The secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings
- 6.7 The secretary may keep a record of authorisation of expenditure
- 6.8 The secretary shall give notice to all members of the society's meetings, events and functions
- 6.9 The treasurer shall administer the funds of the society and maintain accounts and budgets
- 6.10 The treasurer shall be responsible for the maintenance of accounts subject to the decision of the committee in compliance with the regulations by the Societies and Publications Committee of DCU
- 6.11 The treasurer shall keep full records of income and expenditure of the society. The treasurer shall also keep a record of who authorised various payments and shall issue receipts
- 6.12 The treasurer shall sign all cheques and withdrawal forms for the society's

bank account. Where the treasurer is decreed as unavailable, another designated person may sign cheques and withdrawal forms for the society on consultation with the Societies and Publications Committee

- 6.13** The public relations officer (along with the secretary) shall be responsible for the advertising of all functions of the society and shall (along with the secretary) deal with external correspondence and maintain records of the contribution that outside bodies have had for the society and to give notice to all members of these contributions

7. Dismissal and Resignation of Committee Members

- 7.1** No member of the committee shall be dismissed from office unless written notice of a resolution to seek such a dismissal, signed by 10% of the members of the society is received 4 working days prior to a general meeting at which such a resolution shall be debated. Alternatively, $\frac{2}{3}$ of the governing executive committee may also call a meeting to debate the dismissal of another committee member.
- 7.2** A resolution to dismiss a committee member shall be passed by a simple majority vote at the relevant and quorate meeting
- 7.3** 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 another committee member until a by-election can be held to re-elect a new member to the position.

8. Meetings

- 8.1** 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
- 8.2** Elections for the offices of the governing executive committee shall take place at the AGM. These elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.
- 8.3** A quorum of the meeting shall be two governing executive committee members and 10% of the society's ordinary membership
- 8.4** The business of the AGM shall include annual reports from the outgoing governing executive committee (which should include a treasurer's report on the finances of the society)
- 8.5** An extraordinary general meeting 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
- 8.6** A vacancy of the current committee occurs, resulting in the need to elect a Replacement
- 8.7** Notice of all meeting shall be given to the membership at least three working days prior to the date of the meeting
- 8.8** 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 (unless a secret ballot is requested by any member). The same secret ballot procedures as outlined in article 5.3 shall apply in this instance (though a pre-printed and generalised ballot paper shall be used). No resolution may contravene DCU policy or the Societies and 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 and 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
- 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), the Societies & Publications Committee shall rule on the matter and its decision is final

10. Amendments to this Constitution

- 10.1 Any member of the society may seek an amendment to this constitution
- 10.2 Any amendment to this constitution must be approved by a secret ballot of all society members (referendum). An amendment shall pass by simple majority. A society referendum shall be held within four working days of the submission of a proposal to amend the constitution. For the purposes of voter facilitation, a referendum shall be held over the course of a full working day (9am to 5pm). The same rules for validation of ballot papers apply as in article 5.3. Voting shall be facilitated, in different locations (if required), by the chairperson (or vice-chairperson in the event that the chairperson is unable to facilitate voting).