

# DCU YOUNG GREENS CONSTITUTION

## 1. **Name of Society:**

1. The name of the Society shall be **DCU Young Greens**. (N)

## 2. **Aims & Objectives:**

The aims and objectives of the Society are as follows:

- 2.1 To facilitate the discussion and exploration of Green Party policies in all its forms. (E)
- 2.2 The promotion of the Green Party and its policies in all its forms. (E)
- 2.3 To foster the development of members as citizens, politicians and individuals. (E)
- 2.4 To provide a forum for members to interact and socialise through relevant and other miscellaneous activities. (E)
- 2.5 To assist Society members to represent the Society at a higher level. (E)
- 2.6 To promote and engage students on green, and other, issues. (E)

## 3. **Members:**

- 3.1 Membership of the Society shall be open to all students, staff and graduates of the college. (N)
- 3.2 Membership shall be obtained by paying the appropriate fee and signing the Roll of Members for the current academic year. (N)
- 3.3 The Society recognizes the importance that graduates and former students endeavour to maintain contact with such former members as wish to retain their connection with the Society. (E)
- 3.4 To this end the Governing Executive Committee of the Society shall be empowered to create a class of "Associate Member" of the Society. (N)
  - 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 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. (N)
- 3.6 A member of a political party, other than the Green Party, wishing to become a member of this society must inform the society of the political party they are a member of. (A)
- 3.7 A member of the Committee of another political party society wishing to become a member of this society must inform the society of the political party society they are a committee member of. (N)
- 3.8 Members, or applicant members, in breach of, or incompliant with, subarticles 3.6 and 3.7 may have their membership revoked (in line with subarticle 9.5), or have their application rejected. (N)
- 3.9 Should the Chairperson of this society believe, with sufficient evidence, that there is a coordinated effort being made to join the society by a group seeking to harm the society or overthrow the Committee they may suspend members of that group's membership and applications for membership.
- 3.10 If at least 50% of the Committee disagree with the decision taken under subarticle 3.9 they may appeal it and a vote with all members of the Committee must be taken within the next week at a Committee meeting. Should the vote pass rejecting the decision taken by the Chairperson, a new decision must then be made on the issue by the Committee at the meeting. The memberships and applications for membership mentioned in subarticle 3.9 remain suspended until a decision is made at the meeting mentioned above in this subarticle. The Vice-Chairperson may not act on the Chairperson's behalf in regards to this subarticle and subarticle 3.9. (N)

#### 4. **Governing Executive Committee:**

- 4.1 The Society shall have a Governing Executive Committee (The Committee). (N)
- 4.2 The Committee shall run the society of behalf of its members and in accordance with the aims and objectives. (N)

- 4.3 Although decisions should be arrived at by the consensus of the committee (where possible), committee decisions shall be decided by majority voting. (N)
- 4.4 A quorum shall be  $\frac{2}{3}$  of committee members. (N)
- 4.5 The Committee can consist of, but not limited of: (B)
- Chairperson (N)
  - Vice-Chairperson (B)
  - Secretary (A)
  - Treasurer (A)
  - Public Relations Office (C)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Year Liaison Office (C)
  - Equipment Officer (E)
  - Entertainments Officer (E)
  - Ordinary Member(s) (E)
  - Events Officer (E)
  - Health & Safety Officer (C)
- 4.6 The Committee positions outlined above may have a deputy position if a simple majority of the Committee vote in favour of it. (B)
- 4.7 The Committee should consist of the Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Health & Safety Officer and at least 1 additional position for every 10 members of the society. (B)
- 4.8 The Term of Office of these elected officers shall be one academic year. (N)
- 4.9 A person shall not hold the same office for more than 2 successive years. (N)

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 Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). (N)
- 5.2 To seek election to the Committee, each candidate must have 2 nominations by current members of the society. These nominations can be obtained at the AGM or EGM. (D)
- 5.3 A member of a political party, other than the Green Party, or of the Committee of another political party society may not run for a position on the Committee or be elected as such. (N)

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. The Chair is also the primary representative of the society. (N)

- 6.2 The Chair of any meeting 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. (A)
- 6.3 The Vice-Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson in all their duties. (A)
- 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. (A)
- 6.5 The Secretary's function shall be to deal with all correspondence and records of the society. (B)
- 6.6 The Secretary keeps minutes of all committee meetings, of all general meetings, of the Annual General Meeting or any other meetings relation to the business of the society when requested by the committee. (B)
- 6.7 The Secretary may keep a record of authorization of expenditure. (B)
- 6.8 The Secretary shall give notice to all members of the society's meetings, events, and functions. (C)
- 6.9 The Secretary shall assist the Public Relations Officer (PRO) to organise fund raising events and sponsorship where necessary. (D)
- 6.10 The Treasurer's function shall be to administer the funds of the society and to maintain accounts and budgets. (B)
- 6.11 The Treasurer shall be responsible for the maintenance of accounts subject to the decision of the committee in compliance with the delegations set down by the Sports Club Committee of DCU. (B)
- 6.12 The Treasurer shall keep full records of income and expenditure of the society. The Treasurer shall also keep a record of who authorised various expenditures and shall issue receipts. (B)
- 6.13 The Treasurer shall sign all cheques and withdrawal forms for the Society's bank account. (B)
- 6.14 Where the Treasurer is decreed as unavailable, another designated person may sign cheques and withdrawal forms for the society on consultation with the Sports Club Committee. (C)
- 6.15 The Equipment Officer shall be responsible for the fixed and current assets of the society in compliance with the regulations set down by the Sports Club Committee. (D)
- 6.16 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. (D)
- 6.17 The Public Relations Officer (along with the Secretary) shall be responsible for the advertising of all functions of the society through all means possible. (D)
- 6.18 The Public Relations Officer (along with the Secretary) 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. (D)
- 6.19 The 1<sup>st</sup> Year Liaison Office shall interact with those in the first year of their degree, and represent them on the committee. (D)
- 6.20 The Entertainments Officer shall plan entertainment for events if necessary or the primary aim of such event. (D)

- 6.21 The Ordinary Member(s) of the committee shall assist other committee members with their tasks. (D)
- 6.22 The Events Officer shall organise events for the society, assisted with other committee members. (D)
- 6.23 The Health & Safety Officer shall ensure that all safety measures are followed, especially Covid-19 regulations. (C)

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

- 7.1 No member of the committee shall be dismissed from office unless: (A)
- Written notice of a resolution to seek such a dismissal, signed by 33% of the members of the society is received at least 4 working days prior to a general meeting at which 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.
- 7.2 A resolution to dismiss a committee member shall be passed by a simple majority voting at the relevant and quorate meeting. (A)
- 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 other committee member(s) until a by-election can be held to re-elect a new person to the position. (A)

8. **Meetings:**

- 8.1 There shall be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) held each year. (N)
- 8.2 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). (A)
- 8.3 Elections for the offices of the Governing Executive Committee shall take place at this meeting. (A)
- 8.4 A quorum of the meeting shall be 2 Governing Executive Committee members and 10% of the ordinary membership. (B)
- 8.5 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). (A)
- 8.6 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be convened if: (A)
- 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.
- 8.7 Elections for the offices of the Governing Executive Committee shall take place at the AGM or EGM (where relevant). (A)
  - 8.8 Notice of all meetings shall be given to the membership at least 3 working days prior to the date of the meeting. (A)
  - 8.9 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 of 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 ailed. (A)
  - 8.10 In the event that the Chairperson's resolution (8.9) 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). (A)
  - 8.11 No resolution may contravene DCU policy or Sports Club Committee. (N)
  - 8.12 Each member of the society present at elections or votes have one vote each. Members of a political party, other than the Green Party, and members of the Committee of another political party society may not vote in elections or any other form of vote. (N)

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 Sports Club Committee. (N)
- 9.2 The membership fee for the Society shall be in compliance with the conditions set down by the Sports Club Committee. (N)
- 9.3 Each member of the Society shall be entitled to receive a copy of this Constitution, on demand, free of charge. (A)
- 9.4 In the event of a clash with the Sports Club Committee Constitution, the Sports Club Committee Constitution shall take precedence above this constitution and is subject to Sports Clubs Committee at all times. (N)
- 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), Sports Club Committee shall rule on the matter and its decision is final. (N)

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 add an (sub)article to this Constitution must receive the approval of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the members present and entitled to vote at the relevant meeting. (A)
- 10.3 There shall be 5 levels of requirements for amending this Constitution. These levels are shown at the end of (sub)articles. These requirements are, by level: (A)
- 10.3.1 A - 80% of the committee, and 66% of all members of the society eligible to vote must vote in favour. (N)
- 10.3.2 B - 75% of the committee, and 66% of all members of the society eligible to vote must vote in favour. (A)
- 10.3.3 C - 66% of the committee, and 66% of all members of the society eligible to vote must vote in favour. (A)
- 10.3.4 D - 66% of the committee, and a simple majority of all members of the society eligible to vote must vote in favour. (A)
- 10.3.5 E - A simple majority among all members of the society eligible to vote. These (sub)articles are non-binding for the society. (A)
- 10.3.6 N - These (sub)articles cannot be amended, removed or ignored unless 100% of the Committee agrees by secret ballot. (N)
- 10.4 Should an amendment be passed or a (sub)article is added to the Constitution, its requirement level for amending, laid out in 10.3 should be reviewed and decided by the Committee with 66% in favour of the resolution. (B)
- 10.5 No (sub)article may be added to the Constitution that would be contradict any (sub)article present in the Constitution may be added to the Constitution. (N)
- 10.6 No amendment may be made to the Constitution that would be contradict any (sub)article present in the Constitution may be added to the Constitution. (N)
- 10.7 A new Constitution other than this one may not be adopted by the society. (N)