



CONSTITUTION

Politics, Philosophy and Economics Society





Edinburgh University Politics, Philosophy, and Economics Society Constitution

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1. Name

1.1. Official Title

- a. The Society shall be known as the Politics, Philosophy, and Economics Society, hereinafter referred to as the Society;
- b. The Society may also be known as the PPE Society, both titles having equal validity to the title outlined in Section 1.1.

2. Aims

2.1. The aims of the Society shall be:

- a. To tackle the perceived distance between the three subjects of the Politics, Philosophy, and Economics (henceforth referred to as PPE) degree;
- b. To create a supportive community that unifies the subjects, allowing for personal critical development;
- c. To organize and host guest lectures related to PPE;
- d. To organize and host monthly reading groups related to PPE;
- e. To organize and host regular debates relevant to PPE;
- f. To organize and host regular social gatherings and events.

3. Membership

3.1. Forms of Membership

- a. Full Membership of the Society is open to all matriculated students of Edinburgh University;
- b. Membership shall be at least 75% matriculated students of Edinburgh University;
- c. Full membership lists should be filed with the Activities Office at least once per semester to ensure membership databases are up to date;
- d. If any dispute of membership should arise, the list registered through the Students' Association database will be used as the official list;
- e. Full-year and Semester 2 membership expires on the 30th of June after semester 2 ends;
- f. Semester 1 membership expires on 31 December after semester 1 ends.



3.2. Membership Entitlements include the ability to:

- a. Participate and vote in Society meetings;
- b. Participate in Society events;
- c. Voice suggestions with the intent to help the Society better achieve its outlined aims.

3.3 Membership Responsibilities

- a. Adhere to the code of conduct of the Society, as well as the University of Edinburgh;
- b. Actively participate within the society;
- c. Members must not act in a manner which brings the Society into disrepute and must act in good faith to the Society;
- d. Members must not cause damage to Society property or venues for Society events;
- e. Members are fully liable for any damages caused by their direct person.

3.4. Breach of Member Responsibilities and Conflict Resolution

- a. The Committee may impose sanctions for misconduct on members, based on verifiable evidence collected, taking into account the seriousness of the misconduct with reference to the membership responsibilities and standard code of conduct, any previous warnings, and any mitigating circumstances. When appropriate the following sanctions may be applied:
 - 1. Informal Warning;
 - 2. First Written Warnings will be issued for a minor offence or complaint;
- b. Final Written Warnings will be issued for: a further offence or complaint or if the conduct of the member failed to improve following a previous warning, or if the actions are serious enough to warrant a Final Written Warning;
- c. Removal from membership will occur if there is a further serious event of misconduct, or if the conduct of the member failed to improve following a previous written warning, or if the member committed an act of gross misconduct;
- d. Edinburgh University Students' Association ("The Students' Association") Societies department will be notified upon removal of a member and provided with a copy of the evidence pertaining to the sanctions process and removal. All persons removed from membership may appeal to the Societies' department against such removal;



- e. The General Committee may, at their discretion, issue a warning to any member or guest who disturbs a Society meeting or event, causes distress or harm to other members, or brings the Society into disrepute;
- f. If the warning is ignored that person may be ejected from the venue; barred from attending future meetings and events; and in the case of members may have their membership revoked with no refund.

4. Management

4.1. The General Committee

- a. The business of the Society shall be managed by a Committee of Office Bearers;
- b. Any full student member of the Society shall be entitled to sit on the Committee;
- c. The Office Bearers must be members of the Society and a matriculated student of Edinburgh University;
- d. All Office Bearers will complete annual online training as outlined by the Activities Team.

4.3. Executive Office Bearers

- a. The Committee must consist of a President, Secretary, and Treasurer (the Executive Officers) as a minimum;
 - 1. All Executive Office Positions can be double staffed.
- b. These Office Bearers will be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- c. No person may be elected to more than one of these posts simultaneously.

4.4. Presidents

- a. The President will chair the General Committee and Emergency General Meetings;
- b. The President is responsible to the Annual General Meeting and the General Committee and is ultimately responsible for the conduct of the Society;
- c. It is the President's responsibility to ensure the Society has submitted their annual report, risk assessment and reregistration forms to the Activities Office;
- d. Should the President resign a new President or Acting President will be voted in at an EGM;
 - 1. If there are Co-Presidents, the remaining President will be Acting President until a new vote takes place in an EGM.



4.5. Treasurer

- a. The Treasurer shall be accountable to the committee and members for the finances of the society;
- b. The Treasurer shall keep and prepare Accounts of the Society and provide a provisional budget, as exhaustive as possible, to be presented at the Annual General Meeting;
- c. It is the Treasurer's responsibility to ensure the annual financial report is complete and submitted along with the society's annual report;
- d. Should the Treasurer resign, a new Treasurer or Acting Treasurer will be voted in at an EGM.

4.6. Secretary

- a. The Secretary shall be responsible for the administration of the society;
- b. The Secretary shall also be responsible for any correspondence within or on behalf of the Society and prepare the agendas and the minutes of every committee meeting, AGM, and EGM;
- c. Should the Secretary resign, a new Secretary or Acting Secretary will be voted in at an EGM.

4.7. Non-Executive Officers

- a. The Non-Executive Officers of the Society Committee will be:
 1. Equity and Inclusions Officer: Ensures the Society is open and inclusive, responsible for managing equity violations;
 2. Social Coordinators: To include two positions, the media and the event secretary.
 - i. Media Secretary: Responsible for the management of all social media accounts, topics of marketing, as well as guest lectures.
 - ii. Event Secretary: Responsible for the planning and management of all society events.
 3. Head of Reading Group: Organize and lead Society reading groups;
 4. Head of Debate: Organize and lead Society workshops and debates;
 5. First Year Representative: Coordinate with first year members of the Society to ensure that their needs are heard by the committee;
 6. Second Year Representative: Coordinate with second year members of the Society to ensure that their needs are heard by the committee;
 7. Honours Representative: Coordinate with honours students to ensure that their needs are heard by the committee;

Created and approved by the Executive-Committee of the PPE Society.

Note: Any non-mandatory clauses within this constitution are amendable at any AMG or EMG.



- i. The Year Representative is ideally filled by a student of that year, however, this is not mandatory, in cases of limited demand;
- b. One individual may fulfil up to two Non-executive Office positions, in cases of limited demand;
- c. Any of the Non-Executive Office Bearer Positions may be left empty should the General Committee or society membership deem them unnecessary.

4.8. Conduct

- a. All Office Bearers shall act in good faith towards the Society in all actions they undertake on its behalf.

4.9. Recall

- a. The members shall have the right at an Extraordinary General Meeting to seek the recall of any or all of the Office Bearers by a special resolution (i.e.: a 75% vote in favour of the resolution);
- b. For such a vote to be binding on the Society the Meeting must be quorate;
- c. The quorum shall be 20% of the membership of the Society;
 - 1. The quorum shall be re-examined after the first fiscal year of the society, based upon attendance;
- d. Grounds for recall may be founded on the failure of any office holder of member of the General Committee to comply with the terms of the constitution, or for any other reason deemed legitimate by the General Meeting.

4.10. Annual General Meeting

- a. All members of the Society are entitled to attend Annual General Meetings (hereinafter referred to as the AGM);
- b. It is the responsibility of the Secretary to ensure that members receive at least 14 days written/email notification of the AGM and of elections not held at the AGM;
- c. Motions to be discussed should be presented to the Secretary in advance of the AGM;
- d. Only fully-matriculated students are entitled to vote at the AGM;
- e. All Office Bearer roles shall be subject to election annually at the AGM;
- f. All members who are matriculated students of the University of Edinburgh shall be entitled to stand and to vote in elections;
- g. Motions carried by the necessary majority (i.e. a 50% vote in favour of the motion) at quorate AGMs are binding on the Society;
- h. The quorum shall be 20% of the membership of the Society;

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1. The quorum shall be re-examined after the first fiscal year of the society, based upon attendance;
- i. It is the responsibility of the outgoing Treasurer to present the final reports for the previous year and a complete account of the current state of finances. They must present an accurate breakdown of the definite commitment for which the Society has been engaged in the current year, henceforth to be known as the Budget. Emphasis must be placed on comparing this Budget with current income;
- j. The Secretary shall report on the administrative affairs of the society;
- k. Elections will use the First Past the Post System. This means that the candidate with the most votes will be appointed to the office;
 1. In the event of a draw in an election, a ranked vote system will be enacted, meaning, that second votes will be counted in addition to first votes.

4.11. Emergency General Meeting

- a) The President / Co-Presidents may call an Extraordinary General Meeting for matters arising in the course of the year which require consideration by members;
- b) Following the receipt of such a request by the Secretary the General Committee shall have twenty-eight (28) days to implement the request, and must take reasonable measures to notify the members of the time and place of the Extraordinary General Meeting;
- c) The EGM shall follow the procedure of the AGM outlined in 4.10 above;
- d) All members must receive at least 14 days written/email notification of the EGM;
- e) In the event of an Executive position becoming vacant, the President will call an EGM to elect a replacement;
- f) Any newly elected Office Bearers will be communicated to the Societies Team after the election has taken place.

5. Finance

5.1. Finance Policy

- a. The Treasurer must endeavor to ensure that the ordinary expenditure of any given year is not more than the ordinary income of that year;

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- b. The financial year shall run from 1st April to 31st March;
- c. The definition of ordinary and extraordinary expenditure is the responsibility of the General Committee.

5.2. General Finance

- a. The Society shall be non-profit making. The Office Bearers and members may only receive payment, direct or indirect, as reimbursement for legitimate expenses;
- b. Core income shall be defined as income arising from membership fees and any other source as agreed by the General Committee;
- c. Any reserves at the end of the Financial Year shall be carried over into reserves for the following Financial Year;
- d. A loss carried forward into the following financial year must be notified and explained at the Annual General Meeting.

6. Policy

6.1. Re-registration, Annual Reports and Financial Reports

- a. Re-registration of the society must be submitted in accordance with the deadlines set by the Activities Team;
- b. Annual and Financial Reports must be completed and submitted as part of the re- registration process following the AGM in the second semester.

6.2. Society Status

- a. A Society may not register to obtain any legal status, including a limited company or a charitable status.

6.3. Political Organizations

- a. The Society will be non-partisan in that it will not espouse the cause of any political party;
- b. The Society may organise events in conjunction with political organisations, but the role of the co-sponsor must be made clear to the membership. The

membership may request the General Committee to cancel the event or may cancel it by passing a motion at a General Meeting.

6.4. Equal Opportunities Policy

- a. The Society shall uphold and maintain its policy on the equality of opportunity as defined in the Equal Opportunities Policy;
- b. The Society will take all necessary steps to ensure that their meetings, events and socials are accessible to all;
- c. The Society will ensure that it complies with any relevant data protection legislation;
- d. The Society believes that discrimination or harassment, direct or indirect, based on a person's gender, age (except where it relates to licensing laws), race, skin colour, nationality, religious belief, socio-economic background, disability, HIV status, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, family situation, domestic responsibilities or any other irrelevant distinction, is detrimental to the society, the university and wider society, and will not be tolerated;
- e. The Students' Association has a zero-tolerance policy for sexual harassment and violence. This means that any case of sexual harassment or violence will be escalated to the final disciplinary stage (removal). Appeals will go through the formal complaints process of the Students' Association;
- f. The Students' Association understands harassment to include all forms, whether expressed orally, in writing, or on any cyber or digital platform;
- g. The Society shall abide by any applicable laws, bye-laws and guidelines of the Edinburgh University Students' Association in relation to recognised Societies.

7. Dissolution

7.1. Dissolution of the Society

- a. The Society shall not be wound up except by a resolution of three quarters of those present at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose;

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- b. All funds remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities following such a resolution shall be passed on to a charitable organisation having objects similar to those of the Society as the General Committee.

8. Alteration of the Constitution

8.1. Alteration

- a. Any motion to alter the Constitution will have to be supported by two-thirds of the members present at the AGM or EGM, 14 days notice of which shall be given;
- b. The Students' Association considers the ruling society constitution to be that which is displayed on the Society Profile.

9. History

9.1 Passing of Constitution

- a. This constitution was unanimously approved at an EGM held on the 1st of October 2025.