

# Labour Youth Maynooth University Constitution

## Article 1: General

**1.1 Name:** Labour Youth Maynooth University *abbrev. LYMU*

**1.2 Objectives:** LYMU shall carry out the objectives of the Labour Party constitution.

**1.3 Standing Orders:** LYMU shall adapt the “Society Supplementary Standing Orders” as its prime standing orders but also the “Labour Party Constitution” set out by the party executive as secondary standing orders.

**1.4 Policy:** The LYMU Policy Document is an integral part of this constitution with an exemption on supplementary standing orders.

## Article 2: Officers

### **2.1 Chairperson**

- a. Shall keep order in meetings
- b. Shall call meetings
- c. Is the prime spokesperson for the society
- d. Shall lead the society
- e. Shall represent the society
- f. Shall draft an agenda with the Chief Whip
- g. Shall take charge of the committee
- h. Has the power of Interim committee appointments where there is a vacancy
- i. Has the power to add new officers to the committee where necessary
- j. Subsections h and i can be reversed by majority of members at a meeting

### **2.2 Chief Whip**

- a. Shall take minutes of meetings
- b. Shall assist the chairperson
- c. Shall organise meetings and events
- d. Shall keep the committee in order
- e. Shall make sure every member votes in the National Conference

### **2.3 Deputy Chief Whip**

- a. Shall keep accounts
- b. Shall do the audits
- c. Shall manage the finances
- d. Shall assist the Chief Whip
- e. Shall be appointed by the committee among the pool of current officers

### **2.4 Communications Officer**

- a. Shall be responsible for maintaining social media
- b. Shall be responsible for communications internal and external
- c. Shall be responsible for media output

### **2.5 Oifigeach na Gaeilge**

- a. Shall be responsible for Irish Campaigns
- b. Shall be responsible for linking in with Irish Societies
- c. Shall be responsible for translating campaigns into Irish

### **2.6 Campaigns Officer**

- a. Shall be in charge of running events and campaigns

### **2.7 1st Year Officer**

### **2.8 Women's Officer**

- a. Has the power to absorb the Equality Officer at the AGM
- b. Campaigns on women's Issues
- c. Recruits Women
- d. She shall be elected from a caucus of self-identified women

## **2.9 Equality Officer**

- a. Campaigns on Equality Issues
- b. Recruits: Ethnic Minorities, Foreign Nationals and LGBT people.

## Article 3: Annual General Meeting / General Meeting

**3.1 Time:** The AGM shall be called at the end of the academic year.

**3.2 Agenda:** The Agenda shall be that of the labour branch standing orders determined by the executive board

## Article 4: Society Supplementary Standing Orders

**4.1:** All elections will be done in the Proportional Representation Single Transferable Vote

**4.2:** A Special General Meeting may be called if it gets the signatures of 2/3 of members or the Majority of the committee or the Chairperson

**4.3:** The Society shall place no quotas on the basis of Gender, Sexual Orientation, Race, Religion, Creed, Background or Culture

**4.4:** A meeting can be called by a member with 6 signatures.

**4.5:** Vacancies occurring in any elected office shall be filled by a by-election. Interim appointments are official until a special general meeting can be called.

**4.6:** an AGM has to be called once a year.

**4.7:** The Business for the AGM shall be Minutes, Reports, Elections, Motions, AOB

**4.8:** Procedural motion (G) may be proposed at any meeting

**4.9:** Points of order maybe made at any Meeting or AGM, the secretary has to respond to this point of order if the chair deems it in order

**4.10:** A member with the support of 10% of members present may on a point of order call a quorum count by means of 10% of members standing up and calling quorum count. In the event of the meeting being inquorate, the Chairperson shall adjourn that session until the meeting becomes quorate.

**4.11:** If an amendment is carried, the mover thereof shall become the mover of the amended substantive motion. The following procedural motions may be moved:

- A. A motion that the question be now put;
- B. A motion that the question be not put;
- C. A motion that the question be taken in specific parts;
- D. A Constitutional Amendment;
- E. A challenge to the Chairperson's ruling;
- F. A motion of no confidence in the Chair.
- G. A motion of no confidence in any elected officer

H.A motion to eject a member from the meeting

**4.12.** Procedural motions shall require a seconder, and cannot be proposed during a point of order or during the act of voting or during a speech.

**4.13.** The proposer of any procedural motions may speak to it for one minute followed by one speaker against it for one minute. The proposer of the substantive motion shall have priority in speaking against procedural motions except in the case of procedural motions (E) and (F) where the Chairperson shall have priority. The motion shall then be put to a vote without discussion.

**4.14.** When procedural motions (E) or (F) is proposed the Chairperson shall immediately leave the chair until it is determined. If procedural motions (E) is carried the Chairperson shall rule in accordance with the procedural motion. If procedural motions (F) is carried, the Chairperson to whom it relates shall not take the Chair for the remainder of the session

**4.15** .The Chairperson may refuse to put any procedural motion if one of similar effect and related to the same subject matter has been defeated within the previous fifteen minutes.

**4.16** .If procedural motion (A) is carried, the Chairperson shall allow the proposer the right of reply before proceeding to the vote.

**4.17** .Only one procedural motion may be proposed at any one time; amendments may not be proposed to procedural motions.

**4.18** .A point of order shall take precedence over all other business except the act of voting, unless it relates to the conduct of the vote. It may be raised by any member provided they raise the point immediately and states that they are rising “on a point of order” and specifies the matter to which the point of order relates. A point of order shall relate only to the procedure adopted or to the conduct of the meeting.

**4.19** .Points of information may be raised by any member who states that they are rising on such a point, and such member may be heard if the speaker gives consent. Points of information shall be limited to 15 seconds, such time to be taken from the time allowed to the speaker.

**4.20** .The method of voting shall be by show of member’s hands, each member having one vote.

**4.21** .Suspension of standing orders may be used to facilitate business which is not on the agenda and that can only be introduced by suspension of Standing Orders. Standing Orders, other than this order and Standing Order number one may be suspended upon a motion to that effect being passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting. Such motions shall require a seconder, shall state the purpose for which it is sought to suspend Standing Orders and the maximum period for which they are to be suspended, and shall be put to a vote without discussion. They may not be proposed while a member is speaking on a point of order or during the act of voting. Only that business for which Standing Orders are suspended may be discussed during the suspension.

**4.22:** A Quorum is 50%+1 of members registered at that meeting

**4.23:** Amendments to this constitution may be proposed at the AGM or SGM. The amendments shall take effect within 7 days of the AGM/SGM unless a lesser period is stipulated in the motion moving the resolution.

**4.24:** An Emergency motion can be proposed at any time during a Meeting or AGM, They can be a motion on any of the procedural motions as well as policy motions, but need a 2/3 majority to pass.

**4.25:** Policy motions maybe submitted to any meeting with 2 days' notice.

**4.26:** An amendment can be proposed to any motion at the floor, an amendment can either be accepted by the mover or by 50%+1 of the members.

#### Article 5: Elections

**5.1:** Elections are done in secret ballot my means of single transferable vote

**5.2:** Candidates are allowed observe votes or be represented

**5.3:** The Acting Chairperson and Acting Chief Whip are the counters

**5.4:** Elections must adhere to the supplementary standing orders

#### Article 6: Finance

**6.1:** The Finance committee shall be: Chairperson, Chief Whip and Treasurer

**6.2:** The Finance committee must be always unanimous

**6.3:** The Finance committee shall approve all expenditure

**6.4:** The Chairperson and Treasurer are the 2 bank signatories

**6.5** One signatory is mandated to be used where possible

#### Article 7: Membership

**7.1:** There shall be Three Classes of Membership

a. Full Member :

i. Cost : €15

ii. Can fully participate in the Labour Party and Society

iii. Has full voting rights in Labour Youth and Labour Party iv. Is an automatic member of YES, IUSY, PES, SI and PA

b. Society Member :

i. Cost : €2

ii. Can fully participate in Labour Youth and the Society

iii. Has full voting rights at Labour Youth Conference iv. Is an automatic member of YES and IUSY

c. Associate Member :

i. Cost : Free

ii. Can observe Society activities and events iii. Has no voting rights at Labour meetings

**7.2:** Membership shall be open to any Alumni, Staff or Student in Maynooth University **7.3:**

Full membership is subject to the constitution of the Labour Party

## Article 8 Voting Procedures Extended

**8.1:** Abstain: During a vote on a substantive matter, members may abstain rather than vote yes or no. This generally signals that a country does not support the resolution being voted on, but does not oppose it enough to vote no.

**8.2:** Adjourn: All meetings end with a vote to adjourn. This means that the debate is suspended until the next meeting. This can be a short time (e.g., overnight) or a long time (until next meeting).

**8.3:** Agenda: The order in which the issues before a committee will be discussed. The first duty of a committee following the roll call is usually to set the agenda.

**8.4:** Amendment: A change to a draft resolution on the floor. Can be of two types: a "friendly amendment" is supported by the original draft resolution's sponsors, and is passed automatically, while an "unfriendly amendment" is not supported by the original sponsors and must be voted on by the committee as a whole.

**8.5:** Mandated: Having mandated force on the parties mentioned in the motion.

**8.6:** Caucus: A break in formal debate in which countries can more easily and informally discuss a topic. There are two types: moderated caucus and unmoderated caucus.

**8.7:** Formal debate: The "standard" type of debate at a meeting, in which members speak for a certain time in an order based on a speakers' list.

**8.8:** Moderated Caucus: A type of caucus in which delegates remain seated and the Chair calls on them one at a time to speak for a short period of time, enabling a freer exchange of opinions than would be possible in formal debate.

**8.9:** On the floor: At a meeting, when a resolution is first written, it may not be discussed in debate. After it is approved by the chair and introduced by the committee, it is put "on the floor" and may be discussed.

**8.10:** Right of Reply: A right to speak in reply to a previous speaker's comment, invoked when a member feels personally insulted by another's speech. Generally requires a written note to the Chair to be invoked.

**8.11:** Roll Call: The first order of business in a meeting, during which the Chief Whip reads aloud the names of each member. When a member's name is called, he or she may respond "present" or "present and voting." A delegate responding "present and voting" may not abstain on a substantive vote.

**8.12:** Second: To agree with a motion being proposed. Many motions must be seconded before they can be brought to a vote.

**8.13:** Speakers' List: A list that determines the order in which members will speak. Whenever a new topic is opened for discussion, the Chair will create a speakers' list by asking all members wishing to speak to raise their hand and calling on them one at a time. During debate, a member may indicate that he or she wishes to be added to the speakers' list by sending a note to the Chief Whip.

**8.14:** Unmoderated Caucus: A type of caucus in which members leave their seats to mingle and speak freely. Enables the free sharing of ideas to an extent not possible in formal debate or even a moderated caucus.

## Article 9 : The Whip

**9.1:** The branch shall debate and vote on which motions to put forward and which motions it will specifically **oppose, support or abstain** from at National Youth Conference before they are submitted to Standing Orders. This vote shall be binding (See 9.2 and 9.3)

**9.2:** The branch shall have a two-line whip on branch members voting at National Youth Conference on policy motions.

**9.3:** The branch shall have a three-line whip on branch committee members voting at National Youth Conference on policy motions, upon breaking the whip, that committee member is deemed to have resigned their office.

**9.4:** The branch shall have a three-line whip on branch members voting at National Conference during National Youth Executive elections, a delegate who breaks the whip will be barred from being an official delegate of the branch to one consecutive National Conference. A committee member breaking the whip on NYE elections will be deemed to have resigned their office.

**9.5:** It is in the whips committees' complete discretion as to the enforcement of the whip.

**9.6:** The branch shall hold a hustings OR debate on which candidates it will support (if any) for the National Youth Executive elections, the result of the caucus vote will be binding (See **9.4**)

**9.7:** The Whips Committee shall consist of; The Chairperson, The Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip.