

Constitution of Maynooth Law Society

1. Name of Society

The name of the society shall be Maynooth Law Society.

2. Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the Society shall be as follows:

- 2.1 To create a forum for open discussion and new ideas.
- 2.2 To provide an opportunity for mutual help and learning through study groups and meetings.
- 2.3 To enrich the budding law resources of Maynooth University through the sourcing of materials and forging of links with established law institutions.
- 2.4 To provide a friendly atmosphere for socialising and networking.

3. Membership

- 3.1 Membership of the Society shall be open to all students, staff and graduates of Maynooth University.
- 3.2 Membership shall be obtained by paying the appropriate fee and signing the Roll of Members for the current academic year.
- 3.3 The Society recognises the importance that graduates and former students of Maynooth University and its predecessor institutions can play in its development. It shall endeavour to maintain contact with such former members as wish to retain their connection with the Society.
- 3.4 The Governing Executive Committee of the Society shall be empowered to create a class of Associate Member of the Society.

Associate Members may include graduates and other non-students of Maynooth University and 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 of a general meeting of the Society. The associate membership fee shall not be less than the ordinary membership fee and shall be no more than 10 times the ordinary membership fee.

Associate Members shall not be eligible for election to the Society's governing Committee.

Associate Members shall be entitled to attend all general meetings of the Society. Voting rights and other rights of Associate Members at general meetings shall be determined by the Governing Executive Committee, subject to alteration by a majority vote of 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.

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 membership and in accordance with the Society's aims and objectives.

4.3 Although decisions should be arrived at by the consensus of the Committee where possible, committee decisions shall be decided by majority vote.

4.4 A quorum shall be five Committee members.

4.5.1 The Committee shall consist of:

The President
The Vice-President
The Secretary
The Treasurer
The Moot Court Convenor
The Public Relations Officer
The External Liaison Officer
The Events Officer
The Careers Officer

- 4.5.2 The Honorary President, Dr- Sibo Banda, shall be a non-executive member of the Committee.
- 4.6 The Term of Office of these elected officers shall be one academic year.
- 4.7 A person shall not hold the same office for more than three successive years.

5. Elections of the Governing Executive Committee

- 5.1 The Committee members shall be democratically elected at the Annual General Meeting and, where a vacancy occurs or where a position is unfilled, at the Autumn General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting.
- 5.2 To seek election to the committee, a candidate must have two nominations by current members of the Society.

6. Duties of the Governing Executive Committee

- 6.1.1 The President shall be the chief officer of the Society whose functions include chairing all meetings of the Committee and officiating at meetings of the Society.
- 6.1.2 The Chair shall have an ordinary vote at Committee meetings and meetings of the Society. In the event of a tied vote on any matter she or he shall have the casting vote.
- 6.2.1 The Vice-President shall assist the President in all his or her duties.
- 6.2.2 The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President, unless otherwise directed by a general meeting of the Society, in the event that the President is temporarily absent or is temporarily unable to perform his or her duties.
- 6.2.3 The Vice President shall also have particular responsibility for the academic activities of the Society, including for the Society's legal journal, the *Golden Thread*.

The Vice President shall ensure that an issue of the Golden Thread is published at least once during their term in office.

- 6.3.1** The Secretary's function shall be to deal with all correspondence and records of the Society, as well as to organise all meetings in accordance with the decisions of the Committee and with this Constitution.
- 6.3.2** The Secretary shall keep minutes of all Society meetings, including Committee meetings, general meetings, and any other meetings relating to the business of the Society when requested by the Committee.
- 6.3.3** The Secretary may keep a record of authorisation of expenditure.
- 6.3.4** The Secretary shall give notice of the Society's meetings, events and functions to all members.
- 6.3.5** The Secretary shall be responsible for the keeping and administration of all records of the Society, other than those falling under the responsibility of the Treasurer.
- 6.4.1** The Treasurer's function shall be to administer the funds of the Society and to maintain accounts and budgets.
- 6.4.2** The Treasurer shall be responsible for the maintenance of accounts subject to the decisions of the Committee and in compliance with the regulations set down by the Capitation Committee.
- 6.4.3** The Treasurer shall keep full records of income and expenditure of the Society. The Treasurer shall also keep a record of who authorised expenditures and shall issue receipts.
- 6.4.4** The Treasurer shall sign all cheques and for all withdrawals from the Society's bank account.
- 6.4.5** Where the Treasurer is decreed as unavailable, another designated person may sign cheques and for withdrawals for the Society on consultation with the Capitation Committee
- 6.5.1** The Moot Court Convenor shall be responsible for the Society's involvement with all internal and external moot court competitions; and in particular the Silken Thomas Moot Court competition and the Philpot Curran Moot Court competition.
- 6.5.2** The Silken Thomas Moot Court competition shall be the society's flagship annual moot court competition and shall be an inter-varsity competition. The Philpot Curran Moot Court competition shall be an annual competition for novice moot court competitors.
- 6.5.3** The Moot Court Convenor shall promote moot court amongst members, seek out sponsorship for internal competitions and facilitate moot court training.
- 6.6** The Public Relations Officer (along with the Secretary) shall be responsible for the advertising of all functions of the Society through all means possible.
- 6.7** The External Liaison Officer (along with the Secretary) shall deal with external correspondence and maintain records of the contribution outside bodies have made to the Society and to give notice to all members of these contributions.

- 6.8** The Events Officer shall be responsible for the organisation of Society events and, in particular, those events not coming under the responsibility of the Vice President and the Careers Officer.
- 6.9** The Careers Officer shall be responsible for the sourcing of information likely to be of benefit or interest to members of the Society in the development of their careers and shall be responsible for the organisation of Society events to this end.

7. Dismissal and Resignation of Committee Members

- 7.1** Written notice of any resolution to seek the dismissal from office of a Committee member must be signed by 10% of the membership of the Society or two thirds of the Committee and submitted to the Secretary.

Upon receipt of such notice, the Secretary shall notify the member of the Committee concerned as soon as possible and shall notify the membership of the Society at least four working days prior to a general meeting at which such a resolution shall be debated.

- 7.2** A member of the Committee may be dismissed from office only when a resolution has been put before the membership of the Society as set out in the preceding sub-Article and approved by a simple majority of the general meeting concerned.
- 7.3.1** A Committee member wishing to resign must submit a letter in writing declaring that intention to resign to the Secretary, who shall immediately inform the Committee as a whole.
- 7.3.2** The responsibilities of a Committee member who resigns shall be shared among the other Committee members until a by-election can be held to elect a new person to the position.

8. Meetings

- 8.1** There shall be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) held each year, at which elections for the offices of the Committee shall take place.

There shall also be an Autumn General Meeting held in October of each year at which class representatives for the Society shall be elected.

- 8.2** The AGM shall be held no later than in the final month of the Academic year.
- 8.3** A quorum of a general meeting shall be three Committee members and 10% of the ordinary membership.

- 8.4** The business of the AGM shall include elections of Committee members for the next academic year as well as annual reports from the outgoing Committee, which shall include a Treasurer's report on the finances of the Society.
- 8.5** An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be convened if:
10% of the ordinary membership of the Society request such a meeting in writing, or;
two thirds of the members of the Committee requests such a meeting in writing, or;
a vacancy on the current Committee occurs.
- 8.6** Notice of all general meetings shall be given to the membership at least five working days prior to the date of the meeting.
- 8.7** Any member may propose a resolution relating to the business of the Society at a general meeting, except where such resolution proposes to alter this Constitution; the resolution shall be voted on by a show of hands. A declaration by the President that the resolution has been carried or has failed, unless a secret ballot is demanded by any five members, shall be conclusive evidence that the resolution has passed or failed.
- 8.8** In the event that a declaration of the President under Article 8.7 is challenged, a recount of the votes will be administered in which a number of appropriate people shall be appointed by the Committee as tellers to count the votes. The result will be announced by the President or, where requested by a majority at the general meeting, the Vice-President.
- 8.9** No resolution may contravene policy of Maynooth University or that of the Capitation Committee.

9. General

- 9.1** There shall be an Honorary President of the Society who shall be a staff member, in compliance with the regulations set down by the Capitation Committee.
- 9.2** The membership fee for the Society shall be in compliance with the conditions set down by the Capitation 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 Capitation Committee rules and

regulations, the Capitation Committee rules and regulations shall take precedence over this Constitution.

9.5 The Society shall remain apolitical on all issues.

10. Amendments to this Constitution

10.1 Notice of a proposal to seek an amendment to this Constitution shall be given to the membership at least four working days prior to the meeting at which such a proposal shall be considered.

10.2 A proposal to amend this Constitution must receive the approval of two thirds of the members present and entitled to vote at the relevant meeting.