

# **Debating Society, HKUSU**

## **Constitution**

### **Section 1**      **General**

#### Article 1      Name

The name of the Society shall be “The Debating Society, H.K.U.S.U”. “香港大學學生會演辯學會” (hereafter referred to as “the Society”)

#### Article 2      Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of the Society shall be :

- a). To promote the art of debate and eloquence of speech among its members and the rest of the HKU student body
- b). To act as bridge and agency to the 3 University Debating Teams respectively, the Cantonese Debating Team, the English Debating Team, and the Mandarin Debating Team
- c). To provide channels of broadening in debating and speech for the University Teams
- d). To seek welfare and benefit for the Society’s members.

### **Section 2****Membership**

#### Article 1      Full Membership

All members of the Hong Kong University Students’ Union are entitled to the rights of full membership upon the payment of the annual subscription fee in accordance with that of the [ICA](#) Cultural Council standard.

#### Article 2      Privileges of Membership

All members of the Society shall enjoy the following privileges:

- a). To use all facilities provided by the Society for the general use of its members.
- b). To attend General Meeting of the Society and enjoy voting, election and speaking rights.
- c). To attend functions and activities arranged by Society.

### **Section 3**

### **The Governing Body**

#### **Article 1**

The Executive Committee:

The governing body of the Society shall be an executive committee consisting of:

- |                                       |                |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| (a) Chairperson                       | (1 post)       |
| (b) Internal Vice-Chairperson         | (1 post)       |
| (c) External Vice-Chairperson         | (1 post)       |
| (d) General Secretary                 | (1 post)       |
| (e) Financial Secretary               | (1 post)       |
| (f) Marketing Secretary/Secretaries   | (1 or 2 posts) |
| (g) Welfare Secretary/Secretaries     | (1 or 2 posts) |
| (h) Publication Secretary/Secretaries | (1 or 2 posts) |

#### **Article 2**

Duties of the Executive Committee

- a). The Chairperson shall be the chief executive of the Society, taking chair in all Executive Meetings and General Meetings and shall represent the Society in the Cultural Council, be responsible for all external relations with other Union sub-organizations, other student unions and the public.
- b). The Internal Vice-chairperson shall assist the Chairperson in all internal matters, shall act on behalf of the chairperson at the absence of the chairperson.
- c). The External Vice-chairperson shall assist the Chairperson in all external matters related to other institutions or organizations and at the reception of oversea visitors.
- d). The General Secretary shall be responsible for keeping record of registry, dealing with general administrative paper-works, taking minutes in all Executive Committee Meeting and General Meetings.
- e). The Financial Secretary shall be responsible for all matters relating to the financial matters of the Society.
- f). The Marketing Secretary shall be responsible for all matters relating to raise funds for the Society so as to facilitate its operation.
- g). The Welfare Secretary shall be responsible for all matters relating to the welfare and benefits of the Society and its members.

- h). The Publication Secretary shall be responsible for all matters relating to the publications and publicity works of the Society.

Article 3                      Session

The Executive Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting or the General Meeting of the Society and shall hold office from the following day of the AGM until the next AGM.

Article 4                      The University Debating Team(s)

- a) This is a standing sub-committee of the Society and shall represent HKU and the Society in external (and internal, if necessary) debating events.
- b) Recruitment of Team members is open to all members of the University.
- c) A Team Captain shall be elected among the successful applicants of the auditions and be appointed in a General Meeting of the Society.
- d). The appointed Captain shall be responsible for the General Administration and Executive Work of the Team in which he/she has to:
  - i). To act as bridge between the Society and the Team
  - ii). To represent the Team in the Society's General Meetings
  - iii). To provide a Year Plan and Financial Budget in the beginning of its session and a Functional Report and a Financial Report at the end of its session to the Society.
- e) All Debating Team members must be full members of the Society.
- f) All financial, administrative and external affairs which are related to the University Debating Team should be approved by the Executive Committee of the Society.

**Section 4**                      **Election**

Article 2                      Nominations

Nominations for the posts of the Executive Committee shall be closed on definite date at a definite hour to be determined by the Committee. No nomination shall be valid without the written consent of the nominee.

Article 3            Voting

The member of voting for election of office bearers shall be conducted by simple majority.

**Section 5**            **Meetings**

Article 1            Executive Committee Meeting

- a). Executive Committee Meetings shall be convened by the Chairperson
- b). The quorum shall be composed by not less than half of the Cabinet.

Article 2            Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting shall take place within 1<sup>st</sup> January to 28<sup>th</sup> February. The chairman shall preside.

Article 3            Quorum

At General meetings of the Society, 10% or twenty full members, whichever the more, shall form a quorum.

Article 4            The business of the AGM shall at least include:  
To receive and adopt the minutes of the previous AGM  
To receive and adopt the Annual Report  
To receive and adopt the Financial Report  
To elect members of the Society's Executive committee for the next session.  
To receive and adopt the Year Plan and the Financial Budget of the next session

**Section 6**            **Constitution**

Article 1            Interpretation  
The Executive Committee shall have the sole right of interpretation of this Constitution.

Article 2            Amendments  
No parts of the Constitution shall be supplemented, abolished or amended. Save by a motion carried at the Annual General Meeting or at a General Meeting convened especially for the purpose and of which due notice shall have been given seven days beforehand announcing the changes proposed.

\*\*\*This constitution was renewed on November, 2005