

SOCIAL SCIENCES SOCIETY

THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION

CONSTITUTION

(Amended 2013)

SECTION I GENERAL

Article 1: Name

The Society shall be called "Social Sciences Society, The Hong Kong University Students' Union", hereinafter referred to as "The Society". (*amended 2006*)

Article 2: Purpose

- (a) To promote the general welfare of the members;
- (b) To promote comradeship and understanding among members;
- (c) To promote the study of Social Sciences;
- (d) To foster a sense of consciousness of the local and global communities; (*amended 2009*)
- (e) To represent the students of the Faculty as a whole; (*appended 2005*) and
- (f) To facilitate mutual understandings between the Faculty and the members of the Society. (*appended 2005*)

Article 3: Session

The Society's session shall commence immediately after the Annual General Meeting and terminate before the end of Annual General Meeting of the succeeding year.

SECTION II MEMBERSHIP

Article 1: Membership

(a) Full Membership

- i. All undergraduates of the University registered in the Faculty of Social Sciences shall automatically be the Full Members of the Society and should pay the prescribed fee.
- ii. All postgraduate students of the University registered in the Faculty of Social Sciences are also full members of the Society on payment of the prescribed fee.

(b) Associate Membership

- i. All undergraduates of the University not registered in the Faculty of Social Sciences reading at least one subject included in the curricula of the Faculty of Social Sciences shall be eligible for associate membership on payment of the prescribed fee, upon the approval of the Executive Committee.
- ii. All graduates of the University shall be eligible for associate membership on payment of the prescribed fee, upon the approval of the Executive Committee.
- iii. All members of Students' Union not eligible for membership under any of the above articles shall be eligible for associate membership on payment of the prescribed fee, upon the approval of the Executive Committee.

(c) Honorary Staff Membership

All staff member of the Faculty of Social Sciences may be invited to be Honorary Staff Members of the Society.

(d) Honorary President and Honorary Vice-presidents

Any staff member of the Faculty of Social Sciences shall be eligible for nomination by the incoming Executive Committee to be Honorary President and Vice-presidents.

(e) Honorary Auditor

Any staff member of the Faculty of Social Sciences shall be eligible for nomination by the incoming Executive Committee to be Honorary Auditor of the Society.

Article 2: Privileges

(a) All members of the Society shall enjoy the following privileges:-

- i. To use all facilities provided by the Society for the general use of its members;
- ii. To attend General Meeting(s) of the Society;
- iii. To attend functions and activities arranged by the Society;
- iv. **(Repealed 2009)**

(b) Only Full Members of the Society may nominate and be nominated for Society election and be eligible for office in the Society's Executive Committee. **(amended 2005)**

(c) Only Full Members may vote at General Meetings and General Pollings.

(d) Only Full Members can be councillors and members of the Standing Committees of the Council.

SECTION III GENERAL MEETINGS

Article 1: General

(a) The vote of a General Meeting shall possess the highest authority in the Society.

(b) At the General Meetings, no less than 60 Full Members shall form a quorum. **(amended 2012)**

(c) If a quorum is not formed after an hour of the time schedule for the commencement of the Meeting, the Meeting shall be adjourned to the same day in the following week with the same quorum, and if at that meeting a quorum is still not formed, all business of that Meeting shall be resolved by the Council.

(d) At the General Meetings, all Union Council Meeting procedures and By-Laws shall be observed.

(e) The Council Chairman shall invite a member of the Hong Kong University Students' Union Council not being a member of the Society's Executive Committee as the returning officer for the General Meeting.

(f) No business other than those stated in the agenda shall be discussed at the General Meeting without the consent of at least two-thirds of the full members present.

Article 2: Annual General Meeting

(a) The Annual General Meeting shall be convened by the Council Chairman and held within November of each year.

(b) The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:-

- i. To receive and adopt the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and all Extraordinary General Meeting which have been held in the session.
- ii. To receive and adopt the Annual Report of the Popularly Elected Councillors, the Council Member of the previous session, Faculty Board Members and all standing committees. **(appended 2005)**
- iii. To receive and adopt the Annual Report of the General Secretary and also the Financial Report of the Financial Secretary.
- iv. To amend constitution, if any.
- v. To appoint the Executive Committee Representatives in the Council of the new session. Chairman, External Vice-chairman, Faculty Affairs Secretary and Executive Committee Members who will be the

Chairman of the Standing Committees in the Council of the new session shall be included if the posts are not vacant. (*amended 2013*)

vi. Any other business.

(c) No less than fourteen clear days' notice shall be given for the Annual General Meeting.

Article 3: Extraordinary General Meeting

(a) The Committee and the Council shall have the right to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting for any purpose at any time.

(b) The Council Chairman shall convene an Extraordinary General Meeting upon a requisition signed by no less than one-twentieth of the Full Members of the Society.

(c) No less than seven clear days' notice shall be given for an Extraordinary General Meeting and the notice convening the Meeting shall state the business to be transacted.

(d) A vote of non-confidence for infringement of the Constitution, neglect of duties or unbecoming conduct may be moved against any member of the Executive Committee at the Extraordinary General Meeting held specifically for the purpose. A vote so passed shall call for the immediate resignation of the person(s) against whom the vote is moved.

SECTION IV GENERAL POLLINGS

Article 1: Authority

The vote of a General Polling shall possess the same authority of a General Meeting.

Article 2: Conduction

(a) The Committee and the Council shall have the right to convene a General Polling for any purpose at any time.

(b) Upon the requisition of at least one-twentieth of the Full Members of the Society, the Council Chairman shall convene a General Polling.

Article 3: Notice

No less than seven clear days' notice shall be given for a General Polling and the notice convening the General Polling shall state the motion or motions to be voted on.

Article 4: Voting

(a) Voting shall be by secret ballot.

(b) Voting shall take place at specified stations which shall be opened for no less than six hours.

(c) The result of the Polling shall be declared valid if the number of valid votes cast is no less than 10% of the total full members of the Society. The motion or motions shall be declared carried if a simple majority of the valid votes is for the motion or motions.

Article 5: Returning Officer

The Council Chairman shall invite a member of the Hong Kong University Students' Union Council not being a member of the Society's Executive Committee as the Returning Officer for the General Polling.

Article 6: Announcement of the Polling Results

Results of the General Polling shall be announced within 24 hours after the conclusion of the General Polling.

SECTION V SOCIAL SCIENCES SOCIETY COUNCIL

Article 1: Function

The functions of the Council shall be:-

- (a) To represent all students of the Faculty of Social Sciences in all matters affecting their interests.
- (b) To afford an official medium of communication among all the Social Sciences Society Students, the Academic Societies, the Union and the University authorities.
- (c) To discuss and resolve on all matters concerning the interests of the members as a whole.
- (d) To supervise and deal with all matters of the Executive Committee and the affiliated Academic Societies.

Article 2: Authority

The Council shall have the authority second to the General Meeting and the General Polling of the Society.

Article 3: Session

The session of the Council shall coincide with the session of the Executive Committee.

Article 4: Composition

- (a) The Council Chairman.
- (b) The Council Honorary Secretary.
- (c) Ten Executive Committee Representatives who are elected Executive Committee Members of the Society, including Chairman, External Vice-chairman and those who are the Chairman of the Standing Committees in the Council. (*amended 2012*)
- (d) Two Academic Society Representatives including the Chairman or Vice-chairman from each affiliated Academic Society. In case that the Chairman or Vice-chairman is not a Social Sciences Student, he shall appoint a Social Sciences Student from his society to take his place. (*amended 2012*)
- (e) (*Repealed 2005*)
- (f) The Student Members of the Board of Faculty of Social Sciences on provision of a written acceptance as a councilor.
- (g) One Council member of the previous session.
- (h) The five Popularly Elected Councillors. (*amended 2010*)

Article 5: Principle for the formation of the Council (*appended 2010*)

Councillors, who possess voting right, from the Executive Committee and affiliated Academic Societies as a whole shall maintain balance in number.

Article 6: Resignation (*appended 2008*)

- (a) The Council Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Popularly Elected Councillors may, at anytime, resign from office by giving written notice of resignation to the Social Sciences Society Council. A notice of resignation shall be signed by the Council Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Popularly Elected Councillors concerned. A notice of resignation takes effect only by a motion carried by the two-third majority votes at a council meeting.
- (b) In case any Executive Committee Member wishes to resign from office, an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened to receive and adopt his resignation. His seat in the Council shall be substituted by another Executive Committee Member who is originally not a Council Member. This substitution shall be received and adopted in an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society. (*appended 2010*)
- (c) In case any representative from affiliated Academic Societies wishes to resign from office, the respective Academic Society shall convene an Extraordinary General Meeting to receive and adopt his

resignation. His seat in the Council shall be substituted by another representative from the respective affiliated Academic Society who is originally not a Council Member. This substitution shall be received and adopted in an Extraordinary General Meeting of that affiliated Academic Society. **(appended 2010)**

Article 7: Council Chairman

(a) The Council Chairman shall be elected at the First Council Meeting of the current session. In case that the elected Council Chairman is a current Council Member, his representation shall be thence substituted.

(b) The Council Chairman shall convene the General Polling and take the Chair at all General Meetings and Council Meetings.

(c) The Council Chairman shall have the casting vote in case of a second tie of voted.

(d) In the case of resignation of the Council Chairman, the Council shall elect a new Council Chairman. **(appended 2005)**

(e) In the case of vacancy of the Council Chairman, any action deemed appropriate by the Council shall be taken. **(appended 2005)**

Article 8: Council Honorary Secretary

(a) The Council Honorary Secretary shall be elected at the First Council Meeting of the current session. In the case of vacancy, each society shall, according to the alphabetical order of the names of the societies, send a representative (May it be a Councillor or non-Councillor) to be the Honorary Secretary of the Council. This responsibility would be rotated between all societies (including the Academic Societies and the Executive Committee) after each term. After the appointment at the first Council Meeting, the Honorary Secretary shall be responsible for all matters regarding the post and bear all consequences. The society responsible for sending the representative would not be responsible for all consequent acts of the appointed Honorary Secretary. **(appended 2005)**

(b) The Council Honorary Secretary shall be responsible for handling all correspondence of the Council, keeping all related documents of the Council and recording the minutes of all General Meetings and Council Meetings to be adopted at the next corresponding meetings. **(amended 2013)**

(c) The Council Honorary Secretary shall have full speaking right. In case that the Council Honorary Secretary is a current Council Member, he shall retain the voting right.

Article 9: The five Popularly Elected Councillors **(amended 2010)**

The five Popularly Elected Councillors shall represent the interests of the students in the Faculty of Social Sciences and shall not hold concurrently another seat in the Council or any post in the Executive Committee of the Society and the affiliated Academic Societies. **(amended 2010)**

Article 10: One Council member of the previous session **(appended 2005)**

(a) The Council member of the previous session shall be elected at the First Council Meeting of the current session.

(b) The Council member of the previous session shall not hold concurrently another seat in the Council or any post in the Executive Committee of the Society and the affiliated Academic Societies. **(amended 2010)**

(c) The Council member of the previous session shall have full speaking right but no voting right in Council Meetings. **(appended 2010)**

Article 11: The Student Members of the Board of Faculty of Social Sciences **(appended 2010)**

(a) The Student Members of the Board of Faculty of Social Sciences, on provision of a written acceptance as a councilor, shall facilitate the mutual understanding between the Board of Faculty of Social Sciences and the Society.

(b) The Student Members of the Board of Faculty of Social Sciences shall have full speaking right but no voting right in Council Meetings.

Article 12: Council Meetings

(a) Council Meetings shall be convened at least once every academic term. *(amended 2013)*

(b) All Council Meetings shall be convened by the Council Chairman, or at the request of the Chairman of the Society or of any member of the Council seconded by three other Council members.

(c) A notice including the set agenda of the Council Meeting shall be posted up on the board of the Society and be sent to each member of the Council at least five days beforehand.

(d) Unless the Council decides otherwise, all meetings of the Council shall be opened to all members of the Society to attend. Members so attending shall be permitted to speak only with the approval of the Council and shall not vote.

(e) At all Council Meetings, a simple majority of the voting members shall form a quorum. Posts left vacant shall not be counted. *(amended 2010)*

(f) An Emergency Council Meeting of the Council shall be convened by the Council Chairman, or at the request of the Chairman of the Society or any member of the Council seconded by three other Council members. In the absence of the Council Chairman as well as the Honorary Secretary, the Chairman of the Society may thereby convene the Meeting. A notice of any such meeting and the agenda thereof shall be posted on board of the Society and be sent to each member of the Council at least a clear day before the Meeting.

Article 13: Power and Duties *(amended 2006)*

(a) Executive

- i. To elect one President, Vice-presidents, one Honorary Auditor and Legal Advisor of the Society at the beginning of the Society Session. *(amended 2010)*
- ii. To consider and approve or reject any application for affiliation from newly formed Academic Society or student organization in the Faculty of Social Sciences.
- iii. To appoint all standing committees of the Council and to elect Committee ad-hoc deemed necessary.
- iv. To settle any matters arising among the Society and the affiliated Academic Societies.
- iv. To keep a copy of the annual reports, and financial reports where applicable, of the preceding session of the Executive Committee, the affiliated Academic Societies, Popularly Elected Councillors and the Council member of the previous session.
- v. To keep a copy of the annual report(s) of the Faculty Board Members.
- vi. To keep a copy of the annual reports and financial reports of the standing committees of the Council.
- vii. To conduct any business of the Society not explicitly conferred on anybody.
- viii. To decide whether the Executive Committee Representatives should be elected by an Extraordinary General Meeting or by a By-Election General Polling if the post(s) are vacant after the Annual General Meeting. *(appended 2012)*

(b) Supervisory

- i. To receive, consider, amend if necessary, and approve the annual budget estimates of the Society at the beginning of the Society Session.
- ii. To receive, consider, amend if necessary, and approve the annual plans of the Executive Committee and the affiliated Academic Societies.
- iii. To receive, amend if necessary and approve the annual plans of the standing committees of the Council.
- iv. To receive and adopt all half-yearly reports and half-yearly financial reports of the Executive Committee, affiliated Academic Societies, and standing committees of the Council.

- iv. To receive and adopt the reports as requested by five Councillors.
- v. To judge the infringement of the Constitution or unbecoming conduct of Executive Committee Members, affiliated Academic Societies, Standing Committees and any Council Members. *(amended 2010)*

(c) Legislative

- i. To frame, amend and abolish By-Laws and all other regulations pertaining to the Society from time to time.

(d) Judiciary

- i. To judge whether there is any unbecoming conduct or infringement of the Constitution and/or other regulations. *(amended 2010)*
- ii. To exercise sanction powers provided for in Article 14 and/or other regulations. *(amended 2013)*
- iii. To have the power of final interpretation of the Constitution and all other regulations.

Article 14: Sanction Power

(a) Punishment *(appended 2010)*

- i. Any infringement of the Constitution and/or By-Laws and/or the ruling of the Council by the affiliated Academic Societies may result in:

1. Temporary suspension of financial assistance for at least one Society session, unless upon discretion as decided by the Council.
2. Permanent suspension of financial assistance; or
3. Disaffiliation as decided by the Council.

- ii. The above punishment shall be passed to any affiliated Academic Societies by a motion carried by the two-third majority votes at a council meeting. *(appended 2010)*

- iii. Any disaffiliated Academic Society shall not be granted new affiliation for at least one Society session, unless upon discretion as decided by the Council. *(amended 2010)*

- (b) The motion which determines an infringement of the Society Constitution and/or By-Laws and/or the ruling of the Council shall be passed by simple majority of the votes at a council meeting. *(appended 2010)*

- (c) A vote of regret for the infringement of the Society Constitution and/or By-Laws and/or the ruling of the Council shall be passed against any member of the Council, any Executive Committee Member of the Society and affiliated Academic Society. *(amended 2010)*

- (d) A vote of regret for unbecoming conduct shall be passed against any Executive Committee Member of the Society, and affiliated Academic Societies, by a motion carried by the two-third majority votes at a council meeting. *(appended 2010)*

Article 15: Vote of Confidence

Any member of the Council who ceases to be a student of the Faculty of Social Sciences during his term of office in the Society Session may continue to hold office till the end of that session upon a Vote of Confidence passed to him by the Council.

SECTION VI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 1: Composition

- (a) Chairman
- (b) Internal Vice-chairman
- (c) External Vice-chairman
- (d) General Secretary
- (e) Financial Secretary

- (f) Marketing Secretary
- (g) Faculty Affairs Secretary (*appended 2010*)
- (h) External Affairs Secretary
- (i) Current Affairs Secretary
- (j) Academic Secretary
- (k) Publications Secretary
- (l) Publicity Secretary
- (m) Welfare Secretary
- (n) Social Secretary
- (o) Sports Secretary
- (p) (*Repealed 2013*)

Article 2: Election

Except the Past Representative, whom shall be elected by and elected among the outgoing Committee, all members of the Committee shall be elected in an Election General Polling. (*amended 2005*)

Article 3: Power

- (a) The Committee shall have the power second to the Social Sciences Society Council.
- (b) The Committee shall have the power to co-opt any full member to fill in any vacancies that may occur in the Committee, except those stated in Section VIII Article 7. (*amended 2010*)
- (c) The Committee shall have the power to appoint sub-committees for any specific purpose.
- (d) The Committee shall have the power to invite any person to attend any meeting of any function of the Society.

Article 4: Duties

(a) Chairman

- i. The Chairman shall preside all meetings of the Society at which he is present.
- ii. The Chairman shall be the chief executive of the Society and of the Committee.

(b) Internal Vice-chairman

The Internal Vice-chairman shall assist the Chairman in all his duties pertaining to internal affairs. He shall be ex-officio Chairman of the Executive Committee in the absence of the Chairman. (*amended 2010*)

(c) External Vice-chairman

The External Vice-chairman shall assist the Chairman in all his duties pertaining to external affairs and shall be the Society's representative in the Students' Union Council, subject to replacement, in precedence, by the Chairman and any other Executive Committee member in case of his absence. (*amended 2010*)

(d) General Secretary

- i. The General Secretary shall conduct the general correspondence and record the minutes of all meetings.
- ii. The General Secretary shall prepare the Annual Report to be presented at the Annual General Meeting.
- iii. The General Secretary shall be responsible for the keeping of all past and present records of the Society.

(e) Financial Secretary

The Financial Secretary shall keep an account of all income and expenditure of the Society, draft the budget, prepare the Annual Financial Report after being audited by the Honorary Auditor and shall be generally responsible for all financial matters of the Society.

(f) Marketing Secretary

The Marketing Secretary shall be responsible for all marketing activities of the Society.

(g) Faculty Affairs Secretary (*appended 2010*)

The Faculty Affairs Secretary shall be responsible for activities pertaining to Faculty affairs and facilitating mutual understandings between the Faculty and the members of the Society.

(h) External Affairs Secretary

The External Affairs Secretary shall be responsible for activities pertaining to external affairs.

(i) Current Affairs Secretary

The Current Affairs Secretary shall be responsible for promoting the members' understanding and awareness of current affairs.

(j) Academic Secretary

The Academic Secretary shall be responsible for all the academic activities of the Society.

(k) Publications Secretary

The Publications Secretary shall be responsible for producing all publications of the Society.

(l) Publicity Secretary

The Publicity Secretary shall be responsible for all publicizing activities of the Society.

(m) Welfare Secretary

The Welfare Secretary shall be responsible for all matters relating to the student welfare of the Society.

(n) Social Secretary

The Social Secretary shall be responsible for all social activities of the Society.

(o) Sports Secretary

The Sports Secretary shall be responsible for promoting all sports activities and organizing teams and representing the Society at the Sports Association Council.

(p) (*Repealed 2013*)

Article 5: Meetings

(a) Committee Meetings shall be convened at least once every academic term.

(b) All Committee Meetings and Emergency Committee Meetings shall be convened by the Chairman, or at the request of any member of the Executive Committee seconded by two other Committee members.

(c) At all Committee Meetings, a simple majority of the Committee members shall form a quorum.

(d) No less than seven clear days' notice shall be given for a Committee Meeting.

(e) No less than one clear day's notice shall be given for an Emergency Committee Meeting.

Article 6: Resignation (*appended 2005*)

In case any Committee member wishes to resign, an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened to receive and adopt his resignation.

SECTION VII ACADEMIC SOCIETIES

Article 1: Definition

(a) Academic Society is directly affiliated to the Society of which a majority of its full members have full membership.

(b) The term "Academic Society" shall include any of the following societies:

i. Departmental Society

Departmental Society is the student organization in the full membership of which is open to all students taking approved courses in the Department of the University.

ii. Curricular Society

Curricular Society is the student organization in the full membership of which is open to all students enrolled in the curricula of the University. Curricular Society shall be formed only if it is by definition infeasible for there to be a formation of Departmental Society.

iii. Major Or Minor Society

Major Or Minor Society is the student organization in the full membership of which is open to all students taking approved courses in the Faculty of the University which shall be eligible to be declared as a major or minor stream of study in the Faculty of the University. Major or Minor Society shall be formed only if it is by definition infeasible for there to be a formation of Departmental Society or Curricular Society.

Article 2: Nature and Functions

- (a) To foster internal coherence of the students within the respective department, curriculum or stream.
- (b) To promote the members' interests and deepen their understanding of their academic principle.
- (c) To improve communication among their respective members, the respective department, curriculum or stream and the Society.

Article 3: Membership

(a) Full Membership (*appended 2010*)

i. Students fulfilled either one of the following shall be eligible for full membership of the respective academic society on payment of the prescribed fee.

- 1. Students taking approved course(s) offered by the department/school
- 2. Students enrolled in the curriculum
- 3. Students declared in the major/minor

ii. All Academic Societies shall have a majority of its full members that have been registered as full members of the Social Sciences Society, The Hong Kong University Students' Union. (*amended 2007*)

(b) Associate Membership

i. All students of the University not eligible for full membership shall be eligible for associate membership of the Academic Societies on payment of the prescribed fee, upon the approval of the executive committee of the Academic Societies

ii. All graduates of the University shall be eligible for associate membership of the Academic Societies on payment of the prescribed fee, upon the approval of the executive committee of the Academic Societies.

(c) Honorary Membership

All teaching staff of the department, curriculum or stream may be invited to be Honorary Members of the Academic Society.

Article 4: Finance (*amended 2008*)

The Society shall subsidize the Academic Societies in case of deficit subject to advice and approval of the Council.

Article 5: Privileges of Members

(a) All members of the Academic Societies shall enjoy the following privileges:-

- i. To use all facilities provided by the Academic Societies for the general use of its members;
- ii. To attend General Meeting(s) of the Academic Societies.

iii. To attend functions and activities arranged by the Academic Societies.

(b) Only full members of the Academic Societies may nominate and be nominated for Academic Societies election and be eligible for office in the Academic Societies' Executive Committee.

(c) Only full members may vote at General Meetings and General Pollings of the Academic Societies.

SECTION VIII ELECTION

Article 1: Nomination

(a) Nomination for the elected members of the Executive Committee and the Popularly Elected Councillors for the next session shall be opened at the beginning of the sixth week of the first semester of each academic year and shall be closed at noon on a day within the ninth week of the first semester, two weeks after which date the election shall be convened. The General Secretary shall post a list of all nominations received immediately after the nomination is closed. **(amended 2006)**

(b) Nomination for election shall only be made on forms provided for the purpose. Each form shall contain the name and signature of the candidate, together with the names and signatures of a proposer and a seconder.

(c) In case no nomination has been received two weeks before the Election Day, the Central Election Commission (hereinafter referred as the Commission) shall have full power to deal with the matter at its discretion until such times as the election is held.

Article 2: Election General Polling

Election shall be by General Polling.

Article 3: Voting

(a) Voting shall be by secret ballot.

(b) When there is only one candidate for the post, the candidate shall be declared elected, if the number of valid "For" votes cast to the candidate is no less than 10% of the Full Members of the Society, and is greater than the number of "Against" votes cast to him. **(amended 2012)**

(c) **(Repealed 2005)**

(d) All nominations for the post or posts vacant shall be in the hands of the Executive Committee seven clear days' before the By-Election General Polling.

(e) When there are two or more than two candidates for one post, each voter shall be entitled to one ballot paper and one vote. A candidate shall be declared elected if the number of valid "For" votes cast to him is the highest among the candidates and is no less than 10% of the full members of the Society, and is greater than the number of "Against" votes cast to him. In the event of a tie at the first place, a second vote shall be held between the candidates who have tied. **(amended 2012)**

Article 4: Voting of Popularly Elected Councillors

(a) Voting shall be by secret ballot.

(b) When there are five vacancies and there are five or less than five candidates, each voter shall be entitled to one ballot paper on which he shall indicate, for each candidate, whether he is casting a "For" vote to that candidate. A candidate shall be declared elected if the valid "For" votes cast to him is no less 10% of the Full Members of the Society, and is greater than the number "Against" votes cast to him. **(amended 2012)**

(c) When there are five vacancies and there are more than five candidates, each voter shall be entitled to one ballot paper and five votes. The voter may cast his five votes on any five candidates on the ballot paper and shall not cast more than one vote on any single candidate. Failure to comply with the above procedures shall automatically nullify the whole ballot paper. The candidates shall be arranged in descending order of the number of votes they have secured in the election. Any of the first five candidates shall be declared elected provided he had secured a number of votes no less than 10% of

the total Full Members of the Society. Notwithstanding the above, in the event of a tie occurring at the fifth place, a second voting shall be held between the candidates who have tied for the fifth place. **(amended 2010)**

Article 5: Returning Officer

The Commission shall invite a member of the Hong Kong University Students' Union Council not being a member of the Society's Executive Committee as the Returning Officer for the election.

Article 6: Announcement of Election Results

Results of the election shall be announced within 24 hours after the conclusion of the General Polling.

Article 7: By-Election

(a) In the event of three or more posts of the Executive Committee falling vacant at any one time, the Commission shall convene a By-Election General Polling.

(b) In the event of a vacancy/vacancies occurring in the post of the Chairman and/or one of the Vice-chairman of the Executive Committee of the Society, a By-Election General Polling shall be convened by the Commission.

(c) In the event of any vacancy occurring in the post of the Popularly Elected Councillors, a By-Election General Polling for the vacant post(s) shall be held by the Commission.

(d) **(Repealed 2012)**

(e) In the event of any vacancy occurring in the post of Councillors other than the Popularly Elected Councillors, a By-Election General Polling for the vacant post(s) shall be held by the Commission with the consent of the Council and not violating Section V Article 13 (a) ix. **(appended 2012)**

(f) The By-Election General Pollings mentioned in this Article can coincide that candidates of the posts of the Executive Committee of the Society can also run for the posts of Councillors in one By-Election General Polling setting. These candidates shall only be elected as Councillors if they are elected as the Executive Committee Members. **(appended 2012)**

(g) All nominations for the post or posts vacant shall be in the hands of the Commission seven clear days before the By-Election General Polling. **(appended 2012)**

SECTION IX AFFILIATION

Article 1: General

All student organizations in the Faculty shall be granted affiliation to the Society and shall become the affiliated Academic Societies of the Society as decided by the Council on conditions conforming to the Constitution.

Article 2: Criteria for affiliation of Academic Societies

A newly established student organization or a dis-affiliated Academic Societies shall apply in writing to the Council for affiliation to the Society as an Academic Society when it conforms to all of the following conditions:-

(a) It satisfies the definition of Academic Societies in Section VII Article 1(a).

(b) There shall only be one officially recognized departmental society organized by students within a department/school in the Faculty. Any other student organizations which applies for affiliation assigned to the same department/school shall not be accepted and granted the affiliation.

(c) Any newly established student organization, upon application for affiliation as Academic Society, shall obtain the signatures and names of at least fifty per cent of:

i. students taking approved course(s) offered by the department/school to which it intends to assign and shall also obtain the approval of the respective department/school said; OR

ii. students enrolled in the curriculum which intends to assign; OR

iii. students declared in the major/minor which intends to assign.

Article 3: Principles on Affiliated Organization(s)

- (a) All affiliated organizations shall become the internal structure of the Society. The Society shall concern with all matters pertaining to these organizations.
- (b) All affiliated organizations shall entail acceptance of and compliance with the Constitution, By-Laws of the Society and the ruling of the Council.
- (c) The autonomy of internal affairs of the affiliated organizations shall be respected as far as their administration causes no adverse effect on the Society as a whole.

Article 4: General Rights and Responsibilities

(a) Rights:

Any affiliated Academic Society:

- i. is eligible for applying financial assistance offered by the Society;
- ii. is eligible for using the facilities offered by the Society;
- iii. shall have its interests represented in the Social Sciences Society Council.

(b) Responsibilities:

- i. Each affiliated Academic Society shall abide by the Constitution, By-Laws of the Society and the ruling of the Council;
- ii. In matters, policies and external relations affecting the student body as a whole or concerning Faculty Authority and external relations, the Council shall be consulted and its ruling shall be abode by all affiliated Academic Societies;
- iii. The name of the affiliated Academic Societies shall bear the initials of the Social Sciences Society, The Hong Kong University Students' Union; (*amended 2010*)
- iv. Agenda of Annual General Meeting(s) and Emergency General Meeting(s) of the Academic Societies shall be sent to the Council at least one week and two days beforehand respectively.

SECTION X CONSTITUTION

Article 1: Interpretation

The interpretation of this Constitution shall rest with the Social Sciences Society Council.

Article 2: Amendment

- (a) No amendment of this Constitution should be made except at the Annual General Meeting or any Extraordinary General Meeting or a General Polling convened specifically for the purpose.
- (b) A notice intimating the purposed amendment shall be posted seven clear days' before the General Meeting or the General Polling.

Article 3: Authority

The Constitution is overriding the constitutions of the affiliated Academic Societies.

(All the terms “departmental society/societies” in this constitution were amended to “academic society/societies” in 2004)

(All the terms “suborganization”, “Vice-Presidents”, “Vice-Chairman”, “Council meetings”, “he/she”, “his/her” and “him/her” in this constitution were accordingly amended to “affiliated academic society/societies”, “Vice-presidents”, “Vice-chairman”, “Council Meetings”, “he”, “his” and “him” in 2010)