



Constitution of the Oxford Hayek Society

a home for classical liberals and libertarians in Oxford

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Preamble to the Constitution



We are the Oxford Hayek Society. We advance individual, social and economic liberty. We promote the principles of free markets and free societies. We champion civil liberties, private property, the rule of law, and limited government – to further the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness. We are the home of classical liberals and libertarians in Oxford.

Founded in 1983, we are Oxford's oldest free market student society. Between 2008 and 2012, and again from 2018 to 2019, we were known as the Oxford Libertarian Society.

By popular demand, we established this Constitution in 2019. This Constitution provides for a formal governing structure, to safeguard our existence and codify our traditions, preserving the Society for future generations in Oxford, so that it can continue to educate and entertain.



Article I Name and Mission



- 1.1 The Name of the Society is: 'The Oxford Hayek Society' (hereafter referred to as 'the Society').
- 1.2 The Subline of the Society is: 'A Home for Classical Liberals and Libertarians in Oxford'.
- 1.3 The Mission of the Society is to be a not-for-profit student society in Oxford to advance individual, social and economic liberty; to promote the principles of free markets and free societies; and to champion civil liberties, private property, the rule of law and limited government. The Society shall fulfil its Mission principally by hosting term-time activities, such as speaker events and discussion groups.
- 1.4 The income and property of the Society shall be applied solely to the Mission of the Society outlined in [Article I Clause 3](#).
- 1.5 The Benefits of the Society are to provide education and entertainment to the students and residents of Oxford, especially to classical liberals and libertarians in Oxford.



Article II University Compliance



- 2.1 The Society shall be administered in accordance with the Regulations for the Activities and Conduct of Student Members of the University of Oxford (hereafter referred to as 'the University').
- 2.2 The activities of the Society shall at all times be conducted in accordance with the University's procedures, codes of practice and policies in force from time to time on equality, harassment, freedom of speech and safeguarding.



Article III Membership



- 3.1 The members of the Society shall be those who are eligible and apply for membership of the Society, who are admitted to and maintained in membership by the Secretary on the behalf of the Committee, and who have paid the relevant subscription fees to the Society.
- 3.2 The following are eligible to become members of the Society as University Members:
- (a) all student members of the University;
 - (b) all persons whose names are on the University's Register of Visiting Students;
 - (c) students registered to read for diplomas and certificates in the University;
 - (d) student members of Permanent Private Halls who are not student members of the University;
 - (e) members of Ruskin College and Ripon College, Cuddesdon; and
 - (f) members of Oxford Brookes University.
- 3.3 All other persons not falling under [Article III Clause 2](#) are eligible to become members of the Society as Associate Members.
- 3.4 By joining the Society, members of the Society agree to be bound by this Constitution and its Schedules, especially Schedule I.
- 3.5 The Committee reserves the right to remove a member of the Society from membership by simple majority vote if the removal of said person from membership is deemed to be in the best interests of the Society. The Committee also reserves the right to remove a member of the Society from membership through the disciplinary procedure expounded in [Schedule II](#).
- 3.6 The Committee reserves the right to charge subscription fees to members of the Society. Any such subscription fees shall be decided by simple majority vote of the Committee.
- 3.7 Subject to there having been no conflicting measures or sanctions placed on the individual under [Article VI Section II Clause 2](#) or [Schedule II Section III Clause 1](#) or [Schedule II Section IV Clause 4](#), each member of the Society bears the rights to:
- (a) attend the Society's activities free of charge or at a discounted rate to non-members;
 - (b) attend and vote in the Society's General Meetings;
 - (c) nominate and vote in the Society's elections;
 - (d) file a complaint through the disciplinary procedure expounded in [Schedule II](#).
- 3.8 The Committee reserves the right to expel immediately any member and non-member of the Society from an activity of the Society if the person commits any of the offences defined in [Schedule II Section II Clause 1](#), or is found to be recklessly intoxicated, at the activity in question.
- 3.9 The membership list maintained by the Secretary is sensitive personal information. Neither it nor its details may not be circulated to or discussed with anyone who is not a sitting or incoming member of the Committee or the Returning Officer. Any personal copies of the membership list must be destroyed at the end of a member of the Committee's term of Office. Where it is not foreknowledge or common knowledge, nobody with access to the membership list may reveal whether an individual is or is not a member of the Society to anyone who is not a sitting member of the Committee or the Returning Officer. Breaches of this constitute an offence under [Schedule II Section II Clause 1](#).



Article IV Meetings of the Members



Section I: Annual General Meetings

- 4.1.1 There shall be an Annual General Meeting for all members of the Society in Michaelmas Full Term, convened by the Secretary. Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be sent out by the Secretary to members of the Society on not less than fourteen days' notice.
- 4.1.2 The Annual General Meeting shall:
- (a) receive the annual report of the Committee for the previous year, an annual report from the Committee on the Society's compliance with [Article II](#), and the annual accounts of the Society for the previous year, the reports and accounts having been previously approved at a Committee meeting by simple majority vote;
 - (b) elect members of the Committee, pursuant to the procedures expounded in [Article VI](#);
 - (c) consider any motions of which due notice has been given to the members of the Society, and any other relevant business.
- 4.1.3 Prior to all Annual General Meetings, notice of the agenda shall be sent out by the Secretary to members of the Society on not less than seven days' notice.
- 4.1.4 Motions for Annual General Meetings must be received in writing by the Secretary not less than ten days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. The Secretary may reject any motions that are deemed to be frivolous or vexatious or malicious.

Section II: Extraordinary General Meetings

- 4.2.1 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened in any Full Term; by the President, the Secretary or the Treasurer on not less than seven days' notice; or on a written requisition by seven or more members, stating the reason for which the Extraordinary General Meeting is to be convened, and delivered to the Secretary. Notice of the Extraordinary General Meeting shall be sent out by the Secretary to members of the Society on not less than seven days' notice.
- 4.2.2 Prior to all Extraordinary General Meetings, notice of the agenda shall be sent out by the Secretary to members of the Society on not less than three days' notice.
- 4.2.3 Motions for Extraordinary General Meetings must be received in writing by the Secretary not less than five days before the date of the Extraordinary General Meeting. The Secretary may reject any motions that are deemed to be frivolous or vexatious or malicious.

Section III: Regulations of General Meetings

- 4.3.1 General Meetings may only be held during Full Term. The quorum for a General Meeting shall be ten members present in person or by proxy, of whom three must be members of the Committee.
- 4.3.2 When any financial business is to be transacted there must be present the Treasurer, or a member of the Committee deputed by the Treasurer to represent the Treasurer's views to the General Meeting (provided that where it is a case of a deputy, the only financial business transacted shall be that which was set out in the notice of the agenda of the General Meeting).

4.3.3 General Meetings shall be conducted according to the following regulations:

- (a) The chair shall be the President. If the President is not in attendance at the General Meeting, or is proposing a motion, then a member of the Committee nominated by the President shall chair the General Meeting for as long as the President is absent or proposing a motion.
- (b) The Secretary shall take minutes of the proceedings. If the Secretary is not in attendance at the General Meeting, or is proposing a motion, then a member of the Committee nominated by the Secretary shall take minutes of the proceedings for as long as the Secretary is absent or proposing a motion.
- (c) The Secretary shall read out any proposed motion, or summary thereof. The proposer shall then bear the right to give a short speech in proposition. The chair shall then seek additional speakers, until such a time as no member remains wishing to speak, and shall then put the motion to a vote.
- (d) Any member may suggest amendments to a motion. If a suggested amendment is taken as 'friendly' by the proposer of the motion, it shall immediately be incorporated into the original motion. If it is deemed 'unfriendly', a debate shall ensue on the amendment. The chair shall bear the right to reject amendments if such an amendment would change the motion's meaning beyond what a member of the Society could reasonably have expected the original motion's meaning to have been from having read the original agenda.
- (e) The following procedural motions may be made:
 - (i) "I move to vote". The chair shall put this motion immediately, without debate, and if passed, shall put the current item of business to a vote.
 - (ii) "I move to overturn the ruling of the chair". This motion must be brought immediately after the chair makes a ruling. The chair shall put this motion immediately, without debate, and if passed, the ruling in question shall be overturned.

4.3.4 Any motion passed by a General Meeting shall come into effect at the end of that General Meeting, unless otherwise specified.

4.3.5 General Meetings must not discuss sensitive personal information, disciplinary proceedings or sensitive financial contracts.

4.3.6 Every matter shall be determined by a majority of members present and voting. In the case of equal votes, the President shall have a casting vote.

4.3.7 In the case of a motion to amend this Constitution or any Schedule of this Constitution, the motion must be passed with a supermajority of two-thirds of those present at the General Meeting in person or in proxy, and must be ratified by a simple majority vote at the next Committee Meeting, after which the amendment shall come into effect.

4.3.8 Minutes of all meetings, including Committee Meetings, shall be kept by the Secretary. The Secretary shall distribute the minutes of each meeting to members of the Society within forty-eight hours of the end of the meeting, and shall make past minutes available to members of the Society upon request. In the case of minutes of Committee Meetings, the Secretary must redact minutes that discuss sensitive personal information, disciplinary proceedings or sensitive financial contracts. Breaches of this constitute an offence under [Schedule II Section II Clause 1](#).



Article V The Committee



Section I: Administration of the Committee

- 5.1.1 The affairs of the Society shall be administered by a Committee, which shall have ultimate responsibility for the activities of the Society. The Committee shall have control of the funds and property of the Society, and of its administration.
- 5.1.2 No member of the Committee or the Society shall enter into or purport to enter into any arrangement, contract or transaction on behalf of the Society with a value exceeding £100 unless the Committee has resolved to approve the relevant arrangement, contract or transaction at a Committee Meeting.
- 5.1.3 The Committee shall constitute of the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and not more than four General Members of the Committee. Together, the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and General Members of the Committee shall be known as the ‘Office Holders’, and their offices referred to as ‘the Offices’.
- 5.1.4 General Members of the Committee may, if approved by simple majority vote of the Committee, assume individual titles for their role, including any of and any combination of (such as ‘Committee Member for Outreach and Fundraising’):
- (a) Committee Member for Outreach;
 - (b) Committee Member for Representation;
 - (c) Committee Member for Fundraising;
 - (d) Committee Member for Oxford Brookes University;
 - (e) Committee Member for Speaker Events;
 - (f) Committee Member for Discussion Groups;
 - (g) Committee Member for Social Events;
 - (h) Committee Member for Events.
- 5.1.5 The President, the Secretary and the Treasurer shall each be a member of the Society whose eligibility for membership stems from [Article 3 Clause 2 Subclauses \(a\) to \(b\)](#).
- 5.1.6 Each Office Holder must, on election to office, sign an undertaking to abide by relevant provisions of the University Student Handbook and other relevant University policies.
- 5.1.7 No member of the Committee shall be removed from Office except by the approving votes of two-thirds of those present in person or by proxy at a General Meeting, or by a conflicting measure or sanction pursuant to [Article VI Section II Clause 2](#) or [Schedule II Section III Clause 1](#) or [Schedule II Section IV Clause 4](#).
- 5.1.8 Without derogating from its primary responsibility, the Committee may delegate its functions to finance and general purposes and other subcommittees which are made up exclusively of members of the Committee.
- 5.1.9 Each member of the Committee must, and shall procure that other members of the Committee shall, at the end of any term of Office, promptly hand to the relevant successor in Office (or to another member of the Society nominated by the Committee) all official documents and records belonging to the Society, together with any other property of the Society which may be in the outgoing Office Holder’s possession; and must complete any requirements to transfer authority relating to control of the Society’s bank accounts, building society accounts, or other financial affairs.

- 5.1.10 Each member of the Committee may resign from their position by writing to the President, or in the case of the President, to the Committee.

Section II: Committee Meetings

- 5.2.1 There shall be a Termly Committee Meeting for all members of the Committee, convened by the Secretary on not less than seven days' notice.
- 5.2.2 An Extraordinary Committee Meeting may be convened in any Full Term; by the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, or any two members of the Committee on not less than seven days' notice.
- 5.2.3 Prior to all Committee Meetings, notice of the agenda shall be sent out by the Secretary to Committee members on not less than three days' notice.
- 5.2.4 The quorum for a Committee Meeting shall be three members of the Committee present in person or by proxy.
- 5.2.5 When any financial business is to be transacted at a Committee Meeting, the Treasurer must be present.
- 5.2.6 The chair of each Committee Meeting shall be the President. Should the President be absent, or decline to take the chair, the Committee shall elect another member of the Committee to chair the Committee Meeting.
- 5.2.7 Minutes of the Committee containing sensitive personal information, disciplinary proceedings under [Schedule II](#), or sensitive financial contracts, may not be circulated to or discussed with anyone who is not a sitting member of the Committee. Breaches of this constitute an offence under [Schedule II Section II Clause 1](#).

Section III: Responsibilities of Committee Members

- 5.3.1 The President shall:
- (a) bear the right to preside at all General Meetings and Committee Meetings;
 - (b) oversee and assist the work of other members of the Committee;
 - (c) manage the Society's property and equipment; and
 - (d) organise and host the Society's activities.
- 5.3.2 The Secretary shall:
- (a) organise the Society's stall at the annual Oxford Student Union's Fresher's Fair;
 - (b) receive applications for membership of the Society and approve them on the Committee's behalf or refer them to a Committee Meeting for approval, subject to the subscription fee being paid;
 - (c) maintain the membership list of the Society;
 - (d) give notices of General Meetings and Committee Meetings to members of the Society;
 - (e) distribute election notices on behalf of the Returning Officer to members of the Society;
 - (f) draw up the agendas for and minutes of those meetings;
 - (g) make clerical corrections to this Constitution pursuant to [Article IX Clause 5](#); and
 - (h) update this Constitution with each successful amendment and new schedules.

5.3.3 The Treasurer shall:

- (a) fundraise for the Society;
- (b) keep proper records of the Society's financial transactions in accordance with current accepted accounting rules and practices;
- (c) ensure that bills are paid and cash is banked in accordance with current accepted procedures;
- (d) prepare an annual budget for the Society and regularly inform the Committee of progress against that budget;
- (e) ensure that all statutory returns are made including VAT, income tax and corporation tax if appropriate; and
- (f) take responsibility for the Society's bank accounts, building society accounts and other financial affairs.

5.3.4 The General Members of the Committee shall:

- (a) take responsibility for the operation and updating of the Society's website and social media, with specific regard to advertising the Society's activities;
- (b) manage the Society's emails and other personal communications;
- (c) take responsibility for increasing the membership of the Society and making the Society accessible and welcoming to all its members, especially in consideration of gender, sexuality, ethnic background, home/international status, faith and disability;
- (d) develop and maintain a manual of written procedures for all Office Holders;
- (e) assist the President in organising and hosting the Society's activities;
- (f) assist the Treasurer in fundraising for the Society; and
- (g) assist any other reasonable work that the President instructs.

5.3.5 If no General Members of the Committee are in Office, their responsibilities expounded in [Article V Section III Clause 4](#) shall be distributed between the President, the Treasurer and the Secretary as they see fit.



Article VI Elections



Section I: Eligibility for Elections

- 6.1.1 Pursuant to [Article III Clause 7](#), all members of the Society are eligible for nomination as members of the Committee, subject to there having been no conflicting measures or sanctions placed on the individual member under [Article VI Section II Clause 2](#) or [Schedule II Section IV Clause 4](#).
- 6.1.2 Pursuant to [Article V Section I Clause 5](#), only members of the Society whose eligibility for membership stems from [Article 3 Clause 2 Subclauses \(a\) to \(b\)](#) are eligible for election as President or Treasurer or Secretary.
- 6.1.3 Subject to there having been no conflicting measures or sanctions placed on the individual member under [Schedule II Section IV Clause 4](#), members of the Committee are eligible to stand for re-election.
- 6.1.4 With the exception of the Office of General Members of the Committee, in which not more than four individuals can hold the same Office pursuant to [Article V Section I Clause 3](#), members of the Society shall not appoint or elect several individuals jointly to hold any of the Offices, nor allow any individual to hold more than one Office at a time.

Section II: The Returning Officer

- 6.2.1 Not less than fourteen days prior to an election, the Committee shall confirm a Returning Officer to oversee the elections by simple majority vote.
- 6.2.2 The Returning Officer must be subject to the following regulations:
 - (a) they must be a member of the Society whose eligibility for membership stems from [Article 3 Clause 2 Subclauses \(a\) to \(b\)](#);
 - (b) they must not be a member of the Committee;
 - (c) they must never have received a guilty verdict under [Schedule II Section IV Clause 1](#);
 - (d) they must be approved by the Committee through a simple majority vote;
 - (e) they shall be barred from nominating in any elections for as long as they remain the Returning Officer;
 - (f) they must not express any preferences for any prospective or actual nominees or candidates for as long as they remain the Returning Officer.
- 6.2.3 The Returning Officer shall remain in their role until such time the Committee appoints a new Returning Officer or the Returning Officer resigns their role by writing to the Secretary.

6.2.4 The Returning Officer shall:

- (a) apply, clarify and interpret the clauses in [Article VI](#) regarding elections, having sole interpretative power over [Article VI](#);
- (b) keep a record of any interpretations they make, to be submitted to the Secretary for appending as a Schedule to this Constitution;
- (c) draft all election notices for the Secretary to distribute to members of the Society;
- (d) make available to members of the Society, nominees and candidates information on elections and the electoral requirements expounded in [Article VI Section V](#);
- (e) certify that nominations are valid pursuant to [Article VI Section V Clause 2](#);
- (f) ensure that such manifestos comply with the regulations expounded in [Article VI Section V Clause 3](#);
- (g) arrange for ballot papers for both in-person and online proxy voting;
- (h) make all reasonable efforts to keep the ballot secret;
- (i) actively promote and encourage turnout at hustings and in elections.

6.2.5 The Returning Officer must report any electoral malpractice through the disciplinary procedure expounded in [Schedule II](#).

Section III: Annual Elections

6.3.1 Pursuant to [Article IV Section I Clause 2](#), the members of the Committee shall be elected by the members of the Society annually in Annual Elections held at the Annual General Meeting, and shall be eligible for re-election.

6.3.2 The timings for Annual Elections shall be conducted under the following regulations:

- (a) The notice of the election must be sent by the Secretary to members of the Society alongside the notice of the Annual General Meeting not less than fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting, pursuant to [Article IV Section I Clause 1](#);
- (b) All nominations must be received by the Returning Officer not less than ten days before the Annual General Meeting;
- (c) The notice of persons nominated must be sent by the Secretary to members of the Society with the notice of the agenda not less than seven days before the Annual General Meeting, pursuant to [Article IV Section I Clause 3](#).

6.3.3 Following an Annual Election, the new Committee shall take their Offices at midnight on Sunday of 9th Week of Michaelmas Full Term.

Section IV: Vacancies and By-Elections

6.4.1 If during the period between the annual elections to offices any vacancies occur amongst the President or the Treasurer or the Secretary, the Committee shall have the power of filling the vacancy or vacancies up to the next Annual General Meeting by co-optation, or to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting at which to host a by-election, until which time the Committee may agree a member of the Committee to co-opt into the role. Within twenty-four hours of a co-option, the Secretary must notify member of the Society of the result.

6.4.2 If during the period between the annual elections to offices any vacancies occur amongst the General Members of the Committee, the Committee shall have the power of filling the vacancy or vacancies up to the next Annual General Meeting by convening an Extraordinary General Meeting at which to host a by-election, leaving the Office vacant, or allowing the Committee to appoint any consenting member of the Society to the Office.

6.4.3 The timings for By-Elections shall be conducted under the following regulations:

- (a) The notice of the election must be sent to members of the Society alongside the notice of the Extraordinary General Meeting not less than seven days before the General Meeting, pursuant to [Article IV Section II Clause 5](#);
- (b) All nominations must be received by the Returning Officer not less than five days before the Extraordinary General Meeting;
- (c) The notice of persons nominated must be sent to the membership with the notice of the agenda not less than three days before the Extraordinary General Meeting, pursuant to [Article IV Section II Clause 1](#).

6.3.4 Winners of By-Elections shall take their Office three days after the By-Election.

Section V: Election Regulations

6.5.1 The notice of poll must contain the timings of the election, the venue of the election, and a summary of the nomination and election procedure.

6.5.2 A nomination shall be certified as valid if:

- (a) the nominee is eligible to run pursuant to [Article VI Section I](#);
- (b) the nominee has not nominated for multiple Offices in the same election;
- (c) it is received in writing by the Returning Officer before the timings specified for the election in either [Article VI Section III Clause 2](#) or [Article VI Section IV Clause 3](#);
- (d) it contains the name of the nominee as they wish for it to appear on the notice of poll, their university or college or Permanent Private Hall (if applicable), and any manifesto that the nominee wishes to present in the notice of the persons nominated, subject to the fact that the manifesto is certified as valid under [Article VI Section V Clause 3](#); and
- (e) all the details the nominee provides in their nomination are correct and the manifesto is certified as valid under [Article VI Section V Clause 3](#).

6.5.3 A manifesto shall be certified as valid if:

- (a) it does not contain untruthful, vexatious or malicious expressions;
- (b) it does not mention other candidates by name or implication;
- (c) it contains only text, bullet points and numbering;
- (d) it does not exceed 300 words.

6.5.4 Between the close of nominations and the publication of the notice of persons nominated, the Returning Officer must write to any candidate whose nomination is not certified, explaining their reasons for failing their nomination. The failed nominee may enter correspondence with the Returning Officer to amend their nomination such that it becomes valid, or appeal against the Returning Officer's decision by writing to the President, who has sole power to overturn the Returning Officer's decision.

6.5.5 The notice of persons nominated must contain the details outlined in [Article VI Section V Clause 4](#) of all successful nominations. Its formatting must not favour any particular candidate. Candidates must be listed by alphabetical order of surnames.

6.5.6 A vote shall be certified as valid if the voter is a member of the Society, and was a member of the Society at the time of the close of nominations. For the purposes of certifying votes, the Secretary must share the membership list with the Returning Officer. Votes may either be taken in person at the General Meeting at which the election takes place or by online voting.

- 6.5.7 Online votes must be specifically requested from the Returning Officer and cast before the General Meeting at which the election takes place.
- 6.5.8 Elections take place under the following regulations:
- (a) The elections for President, Secretary and Treasurer are run by Alternative Voting, with Re-open Nominations (RON) as an option.
 - (b) The elections for Members of the General Committee are run by Single Transferable Vote, with Re-open Nominations (RON) as an option.
 - (c) For votes in person, the ballot paper must contain the details outlined in [Article VI Section V Clause 2](#) of all successful nominations except the manifestos. Its formatting must not favour any particular candidate. Candidates must be listed by alphabetical order of surnames.
 - (d) Votes shall be counted after the close of polls by the Returning Officer and anyone they appoint to help count the ballot. Only sitting members of the Committee, electoral candidates and not more than two of their representatives may supervise the counting.
 - (e) The result shall be announced in person by the Returning Officer after the voting is completed. The Secretary shall publicise the results of the ballot to members of the Society within twenty-four hours of the result being announced. The Secretary must make available results totals upon request to any member of the Society, including total votes, total votes for each candidate and the number of rejected ballots.
- 6.5.9 In dialogue with the Committee, the Returning Officer may organise hustings for elections, to be held at the General Meeting in which the election takes place or outside of it. Any hustings held outside of the General Meeting may only be organised if each candidate for the Office to be husted agrees to attend or is able to attend and declines to do so.
- 6.5.10 A person commits electoral malpractice if they:
- (a) vote multiple times in the same election for the same office;
 - (b) spend any money for the purpose of soliciting votes;
 - (c) lie – whether knowingly or unknowingly – about another candidate in the election;
 - (d) extort, blackmail or intimidate in connection with the election;
 - (e) impersonate another member in order to gain access to a ballot, or to solicit votes for the election;
 - (f) breach the secrecy of the count or the election;
 - (g) act in a matter deemed by the Returning Officer to be in bad faith and breaching the spirit of the electoral regulations in [Article VI Section V](#).



Article VII Indemnity



- 7.1 So far as may be permitted by law, every member of the Committee and every officer of the Society (each a ‘relevant officer’) shall be entitled to be indemnified out of the Society’s assets against all costs, charges, losses, expenses and liabilities incurred by the relevant officer in the execution or discharge of duties as a relevant officer or the exercise of powers as a relevant officer, or otherwise properly in relation to or in connection with the relevant officer’s duties. This indemnity extends to any liability incurred by a relevant officer in defending any proceedings, civil or criminal, which relate to anything done or omitted or alleged to have been done or omitted by the relevant officer in that capacity and in which judgement is given in the relevant officer’s favour (or the proceedings are otherwise disposed of without any finding or admission of any material breach of duty on the relevant officer’s part), or in which the relevant officer is acquitted, or in connection with any application under any statute for relief from liability in respect of any such act or omission in which relief is granted to the relevant officer by the Court.
- 7.2 So far as may be permitted by law, the Society may purchase and maintain for the benefit of any relevant officer insurance cover against any liability which by virtue of any rule of law may attach to the relevant officer in respect of any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust of which the relevant officer may be guilty in relation to the Society and against all costs, charges, losses and expenses and liabilities incurred by the relevant officer and for which the relevant officer is entitled to be indemnified by the Society.



Article VIII Dissolution



- 8.1 The Society may be dissolved at any time by the approving votes of nine-tenths of those present in person or by proxy at a General Meeting.
- 8.2 In the event of the Society being dissolved, its assets shall not be distributed amongst the members, but shall be paid to or at the direction of the University.



Article IX Interpretation



- 9.1 Any question about the interpretation of this Constitution shall be settled first by the President or, if disputed and sent to a disciplinary committee, the Committee.
- 9.2 Pursuant to [Article VI Section II Clause 4](#), the Returning Officer holds sole interpretative power over [Article VI](#). If there is no Returning Officer, no interpretations over [Article VI](#) may be made.
- 9.3 The Committee shall have the power to make regulations and by-laws in order to implement the clauses of this Constitution, and to settle any disputed points not otherwise provided for in this Constitution, through Schedules to this Constitution.
- 9.4 This Constitution shall be binding on all members of the Society. No regulation, by-laws or policies of the Society shall be inconsistent with, or shall affect or repeal anything contained in, this Constitution.
- 9.5 The Secretary shall be empowered to make clerical corrections to this Constitution, defined as errors in spelling or the indexing and internal referencing. This shall not include corrections to grammar. Any corrections must be ratified by a simple majority at a Committee Meeting.



Schedule I Schedule of The Code of Conduct



- 1.1 The Society does not tolerate any form of harassment.
- 1.2 All members of the Society are expected to read and agree to act in accordance with this Code of Conduct and the University's *Policy and Procedure on Harassment*. Membership may be removed or suspended for failing to do so under the procedure expounded in [Schedule II](#).
- 1.3 All members of the Society are expected to:
- (a) treat other members with dignity and respect;
 - (b) discourage any form of harassment by making it clear that such behaviour is unacceptable;
 - (c) support other members who feel that they have been subject to harassment.
- 1.4 'Harassment' includes the following conduct, however carried out (including online):
- (a) verbal or physical bullying or threats;
 - (b) sexual harassment including unwanted physical conduct, sexually explicit remarks or sexual assault;
 - (c) racist behaviour or comments;
 - (d) homophobic behaviour or comments;
 - (e) victimisation;
 - (f) religiously motivated abuse.



Schedule II Schedule for the Disciplinary Procedure



Section I: Definitions

- 2.1.1 In this Schedule, the 'Complainant' is any member of the Society that feels that another member of the Society has committed any of the offences defined in [Schedule II Section II Clause 1](#).
- 2.1.2 In this Schedule, the 'Respondent' is anyone that has been felt to have committed any of the offences defined in [Schedule II Section II Clause 1](#).
- 2.1.3 If the Respondent(s) is one or more member(s) of the Committee, then references to the 'Committee' in this Schedule are to members of the Committee excluding the Respondent(s), and references to 'sitting members of the Committee' in this Schedule are to members of the Committee including the Respondent(s).
- 2.1.4 In this Schedule, the 'Complaint' is a formal, written claim from the Complainant, referred to the Committee, that the Respondent has committed any of the offences defined in [Schedule II Section II Clause 1](#).
- 2.1.5 Time limits in this Schedule may only be extended by the Committee where it is necessary to do so in order to ensure a fair outcome (for example, where more time is needed because of a party's illness, the timing of examinations or during the holidays).

Section II: Referring a Complaint

- 2.2.1 A Complaint may be made for any of the following offences:
- (a) wilfully or recklessly bringing the Society into disrepute;
 - (b) failure to act in accordance with Schedule I or the *University Policy and Procedure on Harassment* at or in the immediate vicinity of any activities organised by the Society;
 - (c) failure to act in accordance with the Society's Constitution;
 - (d) electoral malpractice under [Article VI Section V Clause 10](#) of the Society's Constitution;
 - (e) theft or deliberate damage to the property of the Society;
 - (f) making a Complaint under this Schedule that is frivolous or vexatious or malicious or unfounded;
 - (g) giving false evidence during the investigation of any Complaint;
 - (h) acting disruptively at any activity organised by the Society, including General Meetings;
 - (i) holding a role in the Society and circulating or discussing sensitive personal information, disciplinary proceedings or sensitive financial contracts to an unauthorised person.
- 2.2.2 Prior to referring a Complaint, where possible, the Complainant should take steps to resolve the matter informally, such as, but not limited to, discussing the matter with the Respondent or seeking advice from members of the Committee.
- 2.2.3 If the identity of the Respondent(s) is such that it is impossible for the Committee to consider the Complaint, the Complaint should be referred for consideration to the President.
- 2.2.4 Complaints must be dealt with confidentially by all parties involved, except where it is necessary to disclose information to carry out a fair investigation (e.g. the identity of the Complainant will usually be disclosed to the Respondent(s)).
- 2.2.5 A Complaint can be made to the Committee by being given to any member of the Committee. The Complaint should be in writing and should include:
- (a) the offence(s) that it is claimed the Respondent committed, with reference to [Schedule II Section II Clause 1](#);
 - (b) a detailed description of the event(s) complained of;
 - (c) statements by any people who witnessed the event(s) or were affected by them; and
 - (d) any other documents or evidence relied upon in support of the Complaint.
- 2.2.6 If the Complaint includes an anonymous statement from a witness or refers to an individual without disclosing their identity, it must include the reasons why anonymity is requested in each case.
- 2.2.7 The Committee may decline to consider malicious, vexatious or frivolous complaints.

Section III: Investigation of a Complaint

- 2.3.1 If it is necessary to do so to protect the Complainant and/or the Respondent and/or other members of the Society from a risk of harm and/or distress, by majority vote, the Committee may suspend the Respondent's membership of the Society and/or access to Society's activities until the Complaint is closed.
- 2.3.2 If the Complaint concerns conduct that may contradict practices of the University or the law of England and Wales, the Committee is required to pass the relevant information on, subject to the consent of the Complainant, to the University, while maintaining the anonymity, as much as possible, of the individuals involved outside of this action.

- 2.3.3 Within seven days of receipt of the Complaint, the Committee must write to the Respondent attaching the Complaint, all of the accompanying evidence and a copy of this Schedule and stating that the Respondent has ten days to provide written representations and any evidence in response to the Complaint (hereafter referred to as the 'Response').
- 2.3.4 If the Response includes an anonymous statement from a witness or refers to an individual without disclosing their identity, it must include the reasons why anonymity is requested in each case.
- 2.3.5 Upon receipt of the Response, in their investigation of the Complaint, the Committee may make any further enquiries of any party that they consider necessary or desirable.
- 2.3.6 In their investigation of the Complaint, the Committee may consider any past Complaints against the Respondent that have resulted in a 'guilty' verdict.

Section IV: Decisions

- 2.4.1 Following an investigation of a Complaint, the Committee must deliver a verdict of 'guilty' or 'not guilty' on whether the Respondent has committed any of the offences claimed by the Complainant.
- 2.4.2 The Committee shall record its decision and the reasons for it in writing and shall send a copy of the reasoned decision to the Complainant, the Respondent and the Secretary within ten days of the deadline for the Response.
- 2.4.3 If the Committee's verdict is 'guilty' and the Respondent is a sitting member of the Committee, the Committee may decide that it is appropriate to remove the Respondent from office. If they do so, they must:
- (a) set out their recommendations and reasons in writing (hereafter referred to as the 'Recommendations') and shall send a copy of the Recommendations to the parties within five days of the deadline for the Response;
 - (b) invite the parties to submit comments on the Recommendations within five days;
 - (c) convene a General Meeting under [Article IV Section II Clause 5](#) of the Society's Constitution to be held within fourteen days of the deadline for comments on the Recommendations;
 - (d) submit the Complaint, the Response, the Recommendations and any comments on the Recommendations for consideration by the General Meeting, which shall then hold a vote on whether or not it is appropriate to remove the Respondent from Office.
- 2.4.4 If the Committee's verdict is 'guilty', the Committee can impose the following sanctions on the Respondent:
- (a) A verbal or written warning;
 - (b) Suspension of access to the Society's activities for a fixed period;
 - (c) Suspension of membership of the Society for a fixed period;
 - (d) Removal of membership of the Society;
 - (e) A ban on the Respondent nominating themselves for the Committee in future elections for a fixed period;
 - (f) A fine of not more than £50 to be paid into the funds of the Society;
 - (g) Any combination of the above.
- 2.4.5 If the Committee's verdict is 'guilty' in the case of electoral malpractice, the Committee can annul any relevant election results and/or disqualify the Respondent from an election.



Schedule III Editorial Policy



Section I: Scope

- 3.1.1 This Editorial Policy expounded in this Schedule applies to the published content of the Society that are visible to members of the Society and the public, including:
- (a) its online presence, including, but not limited to, its mailing lists and its sites such as its website, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn;
 - (b) its physical print, including, but not limited to, flyers, banners, merchandise and distributed books.

Section II: Editorial Policy

- 3.2.1 The Society may publish content for the purposes of:
- (a) advertising and publishing materials from the Society's past, present and future activities;
 - (b) notifying members of the Society and the public of the Society's news;
 - (c) advertising the past, present and future activities of the Society's affiliated organisations and organisations from whom the Society regularly invites speakers;
 - (d) advertising opportunities, including, but not limited to, conferences, events from other student societies, essay competitions, career opportunities, and other content that may be of interest to the Society's members or online followers;
 - (e) engaging the Society's online followers, including, but not limited to, through opinion polls and feedback surveys;
 - (f) advertising any published content that contributes to the Mission of the Society outlined in [Article I Clause 3](#) of the Society's Constitution from:
 - a. the Society's past and future speakers;
 - b. members who are still studying or residing in Oxford;
 - c. members who formerly studied or resided in Oxford;
 - d. non-members affiliated with the University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes University;
 - (g) advertising any content that is published by individuals on any of the platforms that the Society owns, including, but not limited to, any online blogs owned by the Society.
- 3.2.2 The Society may not publish any content that:
- (a) advertises or endorses any party-political activism;
 - (b) advertises or endorses any political party;
 - (c) advertises or endorses anything that is contrary, not in-keeping, or irrelevant to the Mission of the Society outlined in [Article I Clause 3](#) of the Society's Constitution;
 - (d) is deemed to be untruthful, vexatious or malicious;
 - (e) brings the Society into disrepute.

- 3.2.3 In cases where [Schedule III Section II Clause 1 Subclauses \(f\) or \(g\)](#) apply, the Society must conform to the following regulations:
- (a) The Society must have the explicit consent of the individual member of the Society before publishing content advertising the member's published content, unless their membership of the Society is already publicly-available information (for example, if they serve or previously served in any executive position).
 - (b) Upon the request of a person who owns the published content that is advertised by the Society, any content from the Society advertising their work must be removed at the earliest possible opportunity.
 - (c) The Society must usually not publicly endorse any such published content. When it is questioned, the Society must state: "The Oxford Hayek Society routinely advertises content from our members and those affiliated to Oxford's universities that we deem to contribute to our Mission, outlined in our Constitution. While we advertise this content, we do not endorse it."
- 3.2.4 Any content that is published by individuals on any of the platforms that the Society owns must contribute to the Mission of the Society outlined in [Article I Clause 3](#) of the Society's Constitution.
- 3.2.5 Whether from members or non-members, requests for the Society to advertise any content, including from, but not limited to, public researchers searching for panel survey data, must be handled on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Committee on the basis of all aforementioned criteria and subject to the following regulations:
- (a) unless covered by [Schedule III Section II Clause 1](#), it must be made explicitly clear in any such publications from the Society that the Society was requested to advertise this content;
 - (b) the Society must maintain the non-endorsement neutrality outlined in [Schedule III Section II Clause 2 Subclause \(c\)](#).

Section III: Society Colours and Fonts

- 3.3.1 The official logo of the Society shall be *Azure*, (hex #315d89), *phoenix argent with wings charged entouring a; buckle bearing slogan* ("Oxford Hayek Society").
- 3.3.2 Where possible, the Society should opt to use font families Garamond and Alegreya.