



THE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

Oxford University Department for Continuing Education

CONSTITUTION

[2009 version, modified 2016 and 2023]

1. OBJECTIVES OF THE SOCIETY

- 1.1 To
- 1.2 Under the auspices of the Oxford University Department for Continuing Education (OUDCE), to support the organisation of lectures and courses in philosophy, thereby enabling members to hear distinguished speakers and to participate in philosophical discussion.
- 1.3 To retain a close relationship with OUDCE, so that the objectives of both shall be furthered.
- 1.4 To encourage the formation of local discussion groups.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY

- 2.1 Membership shall be open to any who are interested in philosophy.
- 2.2 Members are defined as those who have paid subscriptions for the current year, or who are honorary life members.
- 2.3 Honorary life membership may be awarded to anyone who has rendered exceptional service to the Society, to be awarded only by a majority vote at any Annual General Meeting (AGM).

3. PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 Members receive notice of future courses and lectures.
- 3.2 Members are entitled to receive a copy of the Society's Annual Review, to which they are invited to contribute.
- 3.3 Members have access to the Rewley House Library.
- 3.4 Members are entitled to participate in the AGM and are able to influence the selection of topics for members events.
- 3.5 At the AGM one vote may be exercised by each member. The Chairman shall have the casting vote whenever there is an equality of votes.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS

- 4.1 The subscription year will commence on the first day of the month in which the first payment was made.
- 4.2 The subscription for the following year will be decided at the AGM.
- 4.3 Renewal of subscription is due annually. If the subscription is not received by the end of the second month after the subscription was due, membership may be deemed to have lapsed.

5. OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

- 5.1 The officers of the Society are : the President, Chairman, Secretary, Membership Secretary, and Treasurer.
- 5.2 The President of the Society will be the Director of Studies in Philosophy for OUDCE.
- 5.3 The Chairman will hold the office for three years, not being eligible for re-election in the following year. The Chairman will preside at the annual general meeting and will take the chair at the meetings of the Committee. The Chairman's function will be to stimulate interest in the society's programme and to represent, as far as possible, the viewpoints of members in planning general policy.
- 5.4 The Secretary will prepare agendas for meetings, write minutes of the meetings and keep records of the Society's activities.

- 5.5 The Membership Secretary will maintain a list of members and be responsible for issuing membership application forms and ensuring that new members are issued with appropriate documents.
- 5.6 The Treasurer will be responsible for the funds of the Society, keep adequate accounts, and advise the President and Committee on financial matters.

6. THE COMMITTEE

- 6.1 This will consist of the following:
 - a) the officers of the Society;
 - b) at least four ordinary members.
- 6.2 The Committee will meet at least once per year and at such times as it may think necessary. Its function is to plan the general policy of the Society and elicit and represent the members' wishes.
- 6.3 The Committee shall have the power to co-opt further members for special purposes, but these members shall have no vote in Committee.
- 6.4 Members of the Committee may claim legitimate expenses as authorised by the Chairman and Treasurer together.

7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 7.1 There will be an Annual General Meeting of members of the Society, for the election of officers and members of the Committee, and to provide a platform for the expression of members' opinions. The Chairman will take the chair.
- 7.2 Notice of the AGM and an agenda shall be given to all members at least 21 days prior to the date of the meeting.
- 7.3 Changes to this constitution, including dissolution of the Society, may be made by majority vote at the AGM. Prior notice of 60 days must be given to the Secretary of any proposed changes, and all members must be informed (as per Clause 7.2) when the meeting agenda is issued.
- 7.4 The AGM may elect a President Emeritus and approve the appointment of life members. It will determine the membership fee, and make recommendations about the general use of the funds of the Society.
- 7.5 Resolutions shall be decided by simple voting by a show of hands. In the case of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a second and casting vote.
- 7.6 A quorum at the AGM shall be at least twelve members.
- 7.7 Business at the AGM and Committee meetings will be as informal as possible but for the avoidance of doubt Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the rest of this constitution.

8. FUNDS

- 8.1 The Treasurer shall receive all monies on behalf of the Society.
- 8.2 Society funds shall be banked with a bank or other organization approved by the Committee, and all payments shall be signed by one of two persons nominated by the Committee.
- 8.3 The Treasurer shall submit to the AGM a statement of account.
- 8.4 On dissolution of the Society any balance remaining after the Society's debts have been met will be donated to a cause with similar objectives.