

Constitution of the Cambridge University Hungarian Society



Adopted on 3 Apr 2020

Article I

Introduction

- (1) The Society shall be called the “Cambridge University Hungarian Society”.
- (2) The Society shall be referred to in the Hungarian language as “Cambridge-i Egyetemi Magyar Társaság”.
- (3) The Logo of the Society shall be as represented on the title page of this Constitution.
- (4) Throughout this Constitution, the words “Member”, “Membership” and “Committee” shall be understood in context of the Society.

Article II

Aims of the Society

The Society shall aim to

- (1) promote the understanding of and interest in Hungary, Hungarians, and Hungarian culture amongst all Members of the University of Cambridge, Cambridge, U.K. (hereafter referred to as the “University”);
- (2) offer support and a social scene for Hungarian students of the University and other universities in the city of Cambridge, U.K.;
- (3) encourage and support secondary school leavers in Hungary in applying to the University;
- (4) represent and promote the interests of Hungarian students of the University and of all universities of the United Kingdom in Hungary and the United Kingdom.

Article III

Membership

- (1) All Members of the University may join the Society as may others at the discretion of the Committee.
- (2) The Committee may by majority vote require Members to pay a subscription fee from time to time.
- (3) The only disciplinary sanctions of the Society are to expel or to suspend a Member whose actions are felt to be such as to bring the Society into disrepute, or to adversely affect the smooth running of the Society in a major way.
 - (a) Such expulsion or suspension can only be effected by a majority vote of all Members of the Committee, excluding the Senior Treasurer.
 - (b) In the event of an expulsion, the excluded Member is required to return all equipment, documents and finances belonging to the Society within seven days. They shall not be entitled to any refund of subscriptions.
 - (c) If the excluded or suspended Member wishes to appeal the decision, that appeal shall be made to the Senior Treasurer, who shall consider all the facts, and whose decision shall be final. An appeal to the process of exclusion, but not for a further investigation of the facts, may be lodged with the Junior Proctor of the University.

Article IV

Committee

Title I

Composition of the Committee

- (1) The day-to-day management of the Society's affairs shall be in the hands of the Committee, elected at the Annual General Meeting for a term of one year.
- (2) The Committee shall consist of at least a President a Secretary and a Junior Treasurer who shall be undergraduate or postgraduate students of the University.
- (3) The Committee shall aim to include through election a Vice President, one or two Access Officers, and two Events Officers.
- (4) The majority of all elected members of the Committee shall be undergraduate or postgraduate students of the University.
- (5) The Committee may by majority vote create other Committee positions to assist them as appropriate. The Committee shall appoint willing Members to such positions.
- (6) The Committee may by majority vote appoint willing General Members and Freshers' Representatives to assist them as appropriate.
- (7) A willing Member of the Regent House of the University (or, with the permission of the Junior Proctor of the University, another Member of the University) shall be appointed as Senior Treasurer by majority vote of the Committee. The Senior Treasurer shall have indefinite tenure which may be terminated by
 - (a) majority vote of the Committee to appoint a new Senior Treasurer;
 - (b) resignation from the position;
 - (c) termination of Membership of the Regent House (or revocation of the Junior Proctor's permission to their nomination if not a Member of the Regent House).

In cases (b, c), the Committee shall be responsible for appointing a new Senior Treasurer as soon as possible.

Title II

Duties of Committee Members

- (8) The President shall
 - (a) be answerable on all matters affecting the Society;
 - (b) ensure that the aims of the Society as set out in Article II are achieved;
 - (c) ensure that actions of the Society and the Committee adhere to this Constitution;
 - (d) normally preside at General Meetings of the Society and at Committee Meetings;
 - (e) compile and submit the Annual Report to the Society at the Annual General Meeting as set out in §V(2)(a).
- (9) The Vice President shall
 - (a) substitute the President for all purposes when the President is unavailable;
 - (b) ensure that the aims of the Society as set out in Article II are achieved;
 - (c) organise the work of the Committee for the benefit of the Society;
 - (d) assist the President in compiling the Annual Report to the Society;

- (e) ensure that the interests of all Members are taken into account in Committee decisions.
- (10) The Secretary shall
- (a) keep Minutes of all meetings and ensure their agenda is acted upon;
 - (b) ensure that all correspondence are recorded and acted upon;
 - (c) manage subscriptions to the mailing list of the Society;
 - (d) keep accurate records on the Membership of the Society;
 - (e) ascertain whether any Person is a Member or a Member of the Committee upon request of the Committee;
 - (f) publish Minutes of all Meetings appropriately and otherwise keep all Members fully briefed on all matters affecting the Society;
 - (g) keep close and continuing liaison with all relevant bodies, societies and organisations on matters affecting the Society;
 - (h) ensure that the handling of personal data and any other information by the Society complies with English law.
- (11) The Junior Treasurer shall
- (a) keep financial records of the Society together with the incumbent President and the previous Junior Treasurer;
 - (b) ensure that Membership fees and all other monies handled by the Society are properly banked and accounted for;
 - (c) collect subscriptions and keep a record of all paid-up Members together with the Secretary;
 - (d) collect the cost of events from attending Members;
 - (e) ensure that all liabilities of the Society are duly paid for;
 - (f) present the audited accounts of their tenure to the Society at the Annual General Meeting as set out in §V(2)(a).
- (12) The Access Officer shall
- (a) maintain and distribute up-to-date information to prospective students and offer holders on the University and the application process thereto;
 - (b) organise the undergraduate outreach programme of the Society with the inclusion of Members. This shall include an annual Freshers' Camp and presentations about the University in secondary schools.
 - (c) create a network for prospective graduate students which shall provide information on the University and the application process thereto;
 - (d) ensure that questions regarding application to the University are answered;
 - (e) organise accommodation for and otherwise support interviewees during their interviews with the help of the Members.
- (13) The Events Officer shall
- (a) organise the customary major events of the Society together with the President and the Junior Treasurer;
 - (b) organise minor events for Members from time to time during Term;

- (c) publicise events of the Society via the Society website and mailing list;
 - (d) survey the popularity of events and the feedback of Members on them;
 - (e) inform the Committee on Members' preferences regarding events;
 - (f) assist the Access Officer in organising outreach events during and outside Term.
- (14) The Freshers' Representative shall
- (a) publicise the events of the Society to first year students and otherwise aim to include them into the life of the Society;
 - (b) assist the Access Officer in school outreach activities;
 - (c) assist with all functions of the Committee as requested by Committee Members.
- (15) The Senior Treasurer shall audit the Society's accounts and shall not be liable for any financial debt or other obligation of the Society, unless the Senior Treasurer has personally authorised such a debt in writing.
- (16) The Committee shall define the responsibilities of additional Committee positions created under §IV(5) to a level of detail comparable to §IV(8–14) upon creation.
- (17) General Members shall assist with all functions of the Committee as requested by Committee Members.

Title III

Decisions of the Committee

- (18) There shall be at least two Committee Meetings each Term, at a day and time chosen by the Committee.
- (19) The Chair of a Committee Meeting shall be the most senior Committee Member present, as determined by the list below. If none of the listed Committee Members are present, the Meeting shall be postponed.
- (a) President
 - (b) Vice President
 - (c) Secretary
 - (d) Junior Treasurer
- (20) Any decision that requires the majority vote of the Committee under this Constitution shall normally be made on a Committee Meeting. In addition, a Member of the Committee may request that the Committee vote on any question on which a formal decision of the Society is necessary.
- (a) There shall be a Quorum of at least one half of Committee Members who are not General Members, and at least one of the Committee Members listed in §IV(19).
 - (b) An unambiguous yes–no question shall be presented to the Committee for decision.
 - (c) Voting shall be by show of hands unless a Committee Member requests secret ballot.
 - (d) Votes of all Committee Members, including General Members, shall be equal. The Senior Treasurer shall not have a vote.
 - (e) The question shall be decided according to the plurality of votes. In case of an equal number of Yeas and Nays, the Chair of the Meeting shall make the final decision.
 - (f) The Secretary – or in their absence, any other Committee Member – shall record in the Minutes

- (i) the question, exactly as presented to the Committee;
 - (ii) the names and Committee positions of those present;
 - (iii) the number of Yeas, Nays, and Abstentions;
 - (iv) the final decision of the Committee.
- (g) Decisions made under this Clause shall govern the Society as if they were provisions of this Constitution, unless they are in conflict with any provision of this Constitution or the law, in which case any conflicting provisions shall be deemed void.
- (h) Decisions made under this Clause shall not imply a precedent. Questions presented for decision shall be formulated so as to avoid the appearance of creating a precedent.
- (21) In cases of urgency, the President may request that the Committee vote on a question without convening a Committee Meeting in person. The provisions of §IV(18) shall be followed with the exception of voting by show of hands. The voting method adopted in its place shall be such that
- (a) the identity of voters can be ascertained beyond reasonable doubt;
 - (b) the Quorum set out in §IV(20)(a) can reasonably be established;
 - (c) the Committee is given at most twenty-four hours to cast their votes.

Decisions made under this Clause shall have the standing set out in §IV(20)(g, h). The Secretary shall publish Minutes of any decision made under this Clause which shall describe the voting method in such detail that adherence to the requirements §IV(21)(a–c) can be established in addition to the details set out in §IV(20)(f).

- (22) The President, the Vice President, the Secretary, and the Junior Treasurer may represent the Society and decisions of the Committee on their own.

Title IV Termination of Membership

- (23) Committee Members may resign from their positions by giving written notice to the President.
- (24) Removal of a Committee Member persistently failing their duties may be requested by one or more other Committee Members in writing, detailing their reasons for such request.
- (a) The request shall be sent to the President. If the request concerns the President, it shall be sent to the Secretary.
 - (b) Upon such request, the Committee may remove the Committee Member concerned by majority vote.
 - (c) The Committee Member concerned shall be given the right to be heard by the Committee and may vote on the removal request.
- (25) If a Committee Member resigns or is removed from the Committee,
- (a) The responsibilities of the former Committee Member shall be assumed by the President. The responsibilities of a former President shall be assumed by the Vice President or – if there is no Vice President – by the Secretary.
 - (b) The President shall announce the vacancy to all Members of the Society who shall be given seven days to submit their candidacy. The Committee shall then elect the new Committee Member by majority vote.

Article V General Meetings and Elections

- (1) The Society shall hold an Annual General Meeting (hereafter referred to as the “AGM”) in Lent Full Term of each academic year at a date, time, and place specified by the Committee. Fourteen days’ notice during Full Term shall be given.
- (2) The AGM shall
 - (a) consider the Annual Report of the Committee and the audited accounts of the Society;
 - (b) include Hustings where all candidates shall present their agenda;
 - (c) elect the Committee for the subsequent academic year.
- (3) In order to stand for election, Members shall
 - (a) submit a manifesto to the Secretary at least three days before the AGM. This manifesto shall be published to the general public.
 - (b) be proposed and seconded by two other Members;
 - (c) participate in Hustings during the AGM.
- (4) A Member may run for election as President together with a Vice President. No Member shall run for election as Vice President as a single position.
- (5) Members shall run for election as Events Officers in pairs. Exception may be made at the discretion of the Committee if there is only a single candidate.
- (6) Members may run for election as Access Officers individually or in pairs, but only one individual or one pair shall be elected to fill the position.
- (7) The procedure of Committee elections shall be as follows.
 - (a) All Members shall have equal and secret voting rights.
 - (b) Each Member shall have a single, non-transferable vote.
 - (c) Votes may only be cast in person during the AGM.
 - (d) For all positions, the option of re-opening nominations (hereafter referred to as “RON”) shall be up for election.
 - (e) Votes shall be counted by a Person chosen at the AGM who is not a candidate for any Committee position.
 - (f) Each position shall be assumed by the candidate who received the largest number of valid votes. If two or more candidates receive an equal number of votes, lots shall be drawn to determine the winner. If RON receives an equal number of votes to another candidate or candidates, it shall be eliminated.
- (8) If there are no candidates standing for the position of President, Junior Treasurer, Secretary, Access Officer, or Events Officer on the AGM, or RON is elected for at least one of them, an Extraordinary General Meeting (hereafter referred to as the “EGM”) shall be called as early as reasonably possible to fill the vacancies.
 - (a) Outgoing Committee members without elected successors shall aim to find suitable candidates.
 - (b) The election on the EGM shall be conducted as described in §V(3-6), with the exception of §V(6)(d).

- (3) Upon disbanding, the Committee is responsible for meeting all remaining liabilities. Any remaining assets shall be donated to another registered University Society or transferred to the Societies' Syndicate at the discretion of the Committee.

Article VIII Closing provisions

- (1) The Committee shall act according to its interpretation of the Constitution or at its discretion in all matters on which this Constitution is silent. If the Committee cannot come to an agreement in matters of interpretation of the Constitution, the final interpretation shall be made by majority vote.
- (2) No words or construction in this Constitution shall be taken to imply any discrimination whatsoever with regard to race, sex, sexuality, religion, nationality or political views.
- (3) This Constitution was written in consultation with Members of the Society and was adopted by unanimous vote of the Committee on this first day of May two thousand and seventeen. This Constitution shall repeal and replace all provisions of any previous Constitutions of the Society on this same day.

Article IX Summary of Amendments

- (1) 5 January 2018
Proposed by Marcell Fekete (President) & Attila Szabó (Vice President)
Amendments to bring the Constitution in line with University regulations.
Creation of the role of Freshers' Representative.
 - (a) §III(3): Disciplinary procedure as set out by University regulations.
 - (b) §IV(2), §IV(4): Majority of Committee Members are to be students of the University.
 - (c) §IV(6), §IV(14): Creation of the role of Freshers' Representatives.
 - (d) §IV(7): Exceptionally, not only Members of the Regent House can be appointed Senior Treasurer: made explicit.
 - (e) §IV(20)(d): The Senior Treasurer has no Committee vote: made explicit.
 - (f) §IV(22): Executive Committee members can represent the Society on their own.
 - (g) §VI(6): No amendments intended to change the status of the Senior Treasurer.
 - (h) §VII(3): Final disposal of assets in accordance with University regulations.
- (2) 30 May 2018
Proposed by Dávid Péter Kovács (President) & Attila Szabó (Postgraduate Representative)
§IV(10)(h): Reference to the superseded Data Protection Act 1998 removed.
- (3) 12 October 2019
Proposed by Tamás K. Stenczel (President)
Amendments to bring the Constitution in line with University regulations and to allow up to two Access Officers in the Committee.
 - (a) §VII(1): Twenty-one days notice is required for EGM with intention of disbanding the Society.
 - (b) §IV(3) and §V(6): Pairs can run for the position of Access Officer as well, but only one individual or pair may be elected.

(4) 3 April 2020

Proposed by Balázs Németh (President) & Ákos Marton (Vice President)

§IV(23–25): Simplified procedure for resignation of Committee Members and removing Committee Members failing their duties