

# Constitution for ICU Debating

## 1. Name

- 1.1 The club shall be a member of the Knowledge Committee.
- 1.2 The name of the Club shall be Debating, hereafter referred to as 'the club'.

## 2. Aims & Objectives

- 2.1 We improve the debating, reasoning, persuasion, and public speaking abilities of our members.
- 2.2 We achieve excellent performance in competitive debating, representing Imperial College London nationally and internationally.
- 2.3 We promote a culture of critical discussion at Imperial College by hosting public debates on important social issues.

## 3. Statement of Intent

- 3.1 The constitution, regulations, management and conduct of the club shall abide by all Imperial College Union Policy, and shall be bound by the Imperial College Union Constitution and Regulations.
- 3.2 The club stresses that it abides by the Imperial College Union Equal Opportunities Policy, and that club regulations pertaining to membership of the club and election to management of the club shall not contravene this policy.
- 3.3 The club shall also be governed by the Management Group Standing Orders where the Management Group is determined the New Clubs Committee in the first instance, then as per the Clubs & Societies Policy.

## 4. Membership

- 4.1 The following shall be eligible to become members of the club:
  - 4.1.1 ICU Full Members
  - 4.1.2 ICU Associate Members
  - 4.1.3 ICU Life Members
- 4.2 Any club member who is a full member of ICU shall be a 'full member' of the club, all other members shall be 'associate members' of the club.
- 4.3 All members shall join the club, a membership fee may be set by the club committee but shall not be less than that specified by the ICU Clubs & Societies Board.

## 5. Committee

- 5.1 President
- 5.2 Treasurer
- 5.3 Communications & Inclusion Officer
- 5.4 Publicity Officer
- 5.5 Social Officer
- 5.6 External Debates Chair
- 5.7 Internal Debates Chair
- 5.8 Vice President

## 6. Management and Job Descriptions

- 6.1 The Chair shall represent the club on the Management Group Board, and shall be responsible for making sure that the club is run according to the club constitution and Imperial College Union's Code of Conduct for Clubs, Societies & Projects as far as can be reasonably expected.
- 6.2 The Chair and Treasurer shall sign an ICU Financial Responsibility form, and shall be aware of the ICU Financial Regulations.
- 6.3 The Treasurer shall carry out the day to day financial duties of the club.

# Constitution for ICU Debating

- 6.4 The President shall be the chair of the society, ultimately responsible for its wellbeing. They determine and implement the direction which the society will follow with the assistance of committee. The President does this by making strategic decisions and providing oversight to ensure that each Committee Officer has the support they require to execute their role effectively. The President oversees all Committee Officers; works with the treasurer to oversee the finances of the society; addresses the society regularly for example through weekly newsletters; and chairs committee meetings. The President may delegate oversight of some committee officers and projects to the Vice President or another member of committee..
- 6.5 The Treasurer shall be responsible for managing the finances of the society in order to achieve its goals; keeping the society in a strong financial position; approving financial claims by society members; and writing the annual budget..
- 6.6 The Communications & Inclusion Officer shall be responsible for taking minutes at committee meetings; for booking rooms for training sessions and special events hosted by the society throughout the year; routing or responding to external communications; scrutinising society events to encourage inclusive practices; and all aspects of internal and external communication, helping the Publicity Director with any publicity campaigns..
- 6.7 The Publicity Officer shall be responsible for managing the publicity of the society through poster campaigns and social media; maintaining the society's brand; recruiting new members for our society; working with organisers to design graphics for our events and communications, including the society newsletter..
- 6.8 The Social Officer shall be responsible for organising social events for the society; helping us grow together as a community; coordinating with organisers of our other events to add social elements; and making all members feel welcome and included socially..
- 6.9 The Internal Debates Chair shall be responsible for organising and running training sessions; organising spar debates; overseeing the development of all debaters within the society; advising on team selection for external competitions; and assuming responsibility for overseeing external speakers delivering training sessions..
- 6.10 The External Debates Chair shall The Public Debates Officer shall be responsible for organising public debates for the society. These include: public debates featuring external speakers; show debates featuring internal speakers but an audience extending beyond the normal training audience; and talks by external speakers..
- 6.11 The Vice President shall deputise for the President. They are responsible for assisting the President whenever needed; oversight of committee under the President; assuming the responsibilities of the President if the President is unavailable; managing registration, payment and claims for external debating competitions; and the selection of delegations for competitions. The Vice President shall also act as the society's third Principal Officer, in addition to the President and Treasurer, as defined in the Clubs Societies and Projects Policy of Imperial College Union. The Tournaments Director shall be responsible for overseeing the convening teams of the society's own tournaments; the appointment of such convening teams; developing the institutional convening and tabulation skills of the society; providing support to the convening teams when needed; and ensuring that the convening teams have any support from committee that they require to run tournaments effectively..

## 7. Committee Meetings

- 7.1 Committee meetings shall be called by the Chair of the club and held at least monthly.
- 7.2 At least five College days' notice of a committee meeting must be given to the committee.
- 7.3 Only committee members may vote at a committee meeting, but full and associate members of the club may be invited and speak.
- 7.4 Quorum shall be two-thirds of the committee of the club.
- 7.5 Decision shall be reached by simple majority of the committee members present.

## 8. General Meetings

- 8.1 A general meeting may be called by the club Chair, quorum of the committee or by ten full members of the club; this must be submitted to the Chair in writing. The general meeting must be held within ten College days of receipt of the proposal.
- 8.2 General meetings may only be held during undergraduate term time.
- 8.3 At least five College days' notice of a general meeting must be given to the club membership.
- 8.4 Only full members of the club may vote at general meetings.

# Constitution for ICU Debating

8.5 Quorum of the meeting shall be half of the full club members.

8.6 Decision shall be reached by a simple majority of the full members present.

## 9. Annual General Meeting

9.1 The AGM shall be held during the second term of the academic year, unless permission is obtained from the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies). The AGM shall have as its main business:

9.1.1 The presentation of the report of activities, including financial activities, for the past year.

9.1.2 The election of the committee for the next session.

9.2 An agenda giving notice of the AGM must be circulated to all club members at least ten College days in advance.

9.3 Nominations for club officers must be posted at least ten days in advance of the meeting and closed before the meeting.

9.3.1 Each nomination shall require one proposer and normally 4 seconders who shall be full members of the club.

9.3.2 In the event of there being no nomination for a post within the stipulated time then nominations may be accepted from the floor at the AGM.

9.4 The quorum of the AGM shall be half of the full members of the club.

9.5 In the event that no person is voted in to a post or of resignation from a position, the Chair will undertake the duties until such time as the post is filled. Elections to fill such a vacant post should take place at a general meeting and shall be subject to the same rules as per AGM.

9.6 Further guidance on elections can be found in the Election Regulations for Imperial College Union.

## 10. Finance

10.1 The club may receive grant from Imperial College Union and shall administer this and any self-generated income in accordance with the Imperial College Union Financial Regulations.

10.2 The club Treasurer will provide the Treasurer of the Management Group with a detailed budget for the following academic year during the first half of the second term of the academic year.

10.3 Budgets for events shall be submitted to the Management Group Treasurer and/or the Deputy President (Finance & Services) for inspection and approval in accordance with the Financial Regulations no later than two weeks before the date of the event.

## 11. Health & Safety

11.1 The club acknowledges its duty of care to its members and will abide by Imperial College Union's Health & Safety Policy, and Imperial College Union's Code of Conduct for Clubs, Societies & Projects.

11.2 The club will submit an annual Risk Assessment to the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) for its activities.

## 12. Additional Activities

12.1 We run training events once or twice a week with workshops and practice debates for all members.

12.2 We send teams to represent Imperial College at intervarsity competitions, paying registration fees and subsidising travel for our members in order to lower access barriers.

12.3 We send teams and judges to represent Imperial College at international competitions, including the European University Debating Championships. The delegation is selected by a panel of unbiased & qualified external selectors to maximise performance within a set of constraints to ensure that representatives have contributed to the society, and that access spots are reserved to allow an opportunity for newer members to develop and benefit the society in the long term. Although they are not involved in making decisions, trusted Imperial debaters may be called upon by the selectors for information, to help the selectors meet those goals within those constraints.

12.4 We run our own debating competitions, such as the Imperial IV and Imperial Schools, to generate revenue to spend on our members.

12.5 We run social events, such as a Christmas Party, to promote a feeling of community in our society.

## 13. Constitution

13.1 The Constitution shall only be altered by consent of two-thirds majority of the full members present at a general meeting. The Management Group shall approve any such alterations.

# Constitution for ICU Debating

- 13.2 This Constitution shall be binding on the club officers and members, and all other constitutions are hereby revoked.
- 13.3 This Constitution has been approved in accordance with 13.1. above, and accepted as the Constitution for Debating on 20/01/2021 by Ivan Kapelyukh and Alexander Nielsen