



**UCC
SOCIETIES**
Cumann Choláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

UCC Societies Constitution

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As passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting of UCC Societies’ October 21st 2025.

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1. Title of the Organisation

- 1.1. The name of the organisation shall be 'UCC Societies'.

2. Mission

- 2.1. UCC Societies are student-centred, and student-led. They aim to enhance the cultural, creative, social, political, and intellectual experience of all students through representation and participation.
- 2.2. Its key values are leadership, excellence, inclusivity, and development of our students. It is committed to enhancing the student experience in UCC through its activities.
- 2.3. The Societies Executive are a group of students elected by the Societies Senate to represent and lead the 100+ student societies. The Executive facilitates and supports the development of key skills among the society members.

3. Membership

- 3.1. Each registered Society of UCC shall be a member of UCC Societies.
- 3.2. To be a registered Society, the Society needs to have been passed by the Societies' Executive as per the new society application process.
- 3.3. All societies must abide by the policy set by the Societies Executive in order to maintain their status as a Registered Society.

- 3.4. All UCC Societies must have the following officers on their committee:
 - 3.4.1. Chairperson
 - 3.4.2. Finance Officer
 - 3.4.3. Secretary
 - 3.4.4. Public Relations Officer
 - 3.4.5. Accessibility Officer
 - 3.4.6. First-Year Rep.
 - 3.4.7. Mature Student/Postgraduate Student Rep.
- 3.5. All Society committee members must be registered as a student in University College Cork

4. Governance of UCC Societies

- 4.1. The authority of UCC Societies shall be vested in, and exercised by, the organisation established by this Constitution; namely the Societies Senate and the Societies Executive.

5. Societies Senate

- 5.1. The governing council of UCC Societies shall be the Societies Senate, hereinafter referred to as 'Senate'.
- 5.2. Senate shall meet at least four times a year, one of which shall act as the AGM.
- 5.3. Senate shall be composed of:
 - 5.3.1. The voting members of the Societies Executive.
 - 5.3.2. One representative from each registered Society.

- 5.4. A named representative from the registered Society may attend in the place of the Chairperson if necessary.
 - 5.4.1. Two additional committee members from each society may attend Senate as non-voting delegates.
- 5.5. No individual may represent more than one Society at the Societies Senate.
- 5.6. All members of Senate shall be entitled to attend and speak at Senate.
- 5.7. The functions of Senate shall be:
 - 5.7.1. To act as a deliberative forum for current issues of concern from members.
 - 5.7.2. The ratification of UCC Societies policy.
 - 5.7.3. To mandate the student officers of the Societies Executive to undertake certain tasks in furtherance of any adopted policy.
 - 5.7.4. The ratification of the President's officer report.
 - 5.7.5. To ensure that the members of the Societies Executive are held accountable in the conduct of their respective roles.
- 5.8. Quorum for Senate shall be half of eligible registered members plus one.
- 5.9. A simple majority is required to pass proposed motions.
- 5.10. Meetings of the Senate shall be presided over by an independent Chairperson who shall not be a member of Senate. The Chairperson shall be nominated at the first Senate of the year for a one year term.
- 5.11. The Secretary of the Societies Executive shall act as the secretary for the Senate.
- 5.12. Motions passed by Senate shall be added to the UCC Societies Senate Book by the Secretary of the Societies Executive.

6. The AGM

- 6.1. The AGM of UCC Societies shall be held in the second term of the academic calendar for the purpose of electing officers to the Societies Executive, adopting the annual report of the outgoing Societies Executive, and for the passing of constitutional amendments.
 - 6.1.1. The Chair of Societies Senate shall act as Convenor of Elections for all elections held by UCC Societies. Where the Chair of Societies Senate is unable to act, the Societies Executive shall select another person to act as Convenor of Elections.
 - 6.1.2. The Convenor of Elections shall be responsible for giving adequate notice of all elections, accepting, verifying and collating all nominations, practical operation of all elections and overseeing the counting of all votes.
- 6.2. All students of UCC shall be eligible to run for election to the Societies Executive. Nominations must be submitted by an appointed date.
- 6.3. Eight students shall be elected at the AGM:
 - 6.3.1. One President
 - 6.3.2. One Vice-President
 - 6.3.3. One Finance Officer
 - 6.3.4. Five Ordinary Committee Members
- 6.4. The President, Vice-President, Finance Officer and the five Ordinary Committee Members shall be elected by the alternative vote system. In each race there shall be a Re-Open Nominations option. The President, the Vice-President, the Finance Officer

and each of the five OCMs of the Societies Executive and each society shall have the same number of votes as positions available.

- 6.5. Each Chairperson or their nominated representative from their committee shall vote on behalf of their Society.
- 6.6. In the event of any tie the President shall have a casting vote, unless the President is a candidate in an election, in which case it will be the Vice-President or another agreed Societies Executive member.
- 6.7. At the AGM there shall be reports from the previous Societies Executive. The President shall report on the general organisation, and the Finance Officer shall report on the finances of the organisation.
- 6.8. Any amendments of this constitution and motions shall be passed at the AGM or EGM. A constitutional amendment shall need a two-thirds majority to pass. A motion shall need a majority to pass.

7. The EGM

- 7.1. The Extraordinary General Meeting of the Societies shall be called by the Societies Executive by majority to fill vacancies on its committee, amend the constitution, or for other stated purposes.
- 7.2. The EGM shall follow the procedures of the AGM.
- 7.3. An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called at a week's notice by the request of 15 Societies which must be

communicated by letter brought to the Societies Office with the signatures of at least 15 Chairpersons. The Societies Executive then has 7 working days to hold the EGM. A decision of the Executive Committee may be nullified by an EGM.

8. The Societies Executive

- 8.1. The day-to-day running of UCC Societies shall be vested in a democratically elected committee entitled the Societies Executive.
- 8.2. This body shall be responsible for the making of policy and rules for the fair and equal running of Societies.
- 8.3. It shall also make policy within the autonomy granted to it by the Student Rules of UCC and the office of Student Experience.
- 8.4. The Societies Executive:
 - 8.4.1. Shall distribute monies allocated by the University to Societies.
 - 8.4.2. Shall act on behalf of Societies as required.
 - 8.4.3. Shall act to coordinate activities as required.
 - 8.4.4. Shall oversee the fair running of society elections.
 - 8.4.5. Shall supervise and make available resources and equipment.
 - 8.4.6. Shall resolve inter-society disputes.
 - 8.4.7. Shall make policy for the good running of Societies.
 - 8.4.8. Shall be empowered to establish and grant awards.
 - 8.4.9. Shall be empowered to take such action or to make such policy as is necessary for the good running of the Societies Executive unless such action or such policy be explicitly prohibited by this Constitution.

- 8.5. The Committee shall be made up of:
- 8.5.1.1. Chairperson, who shall be Societies President
 - 8.5.1.2. Seven students elected by the Societies at the AGM
 - 8.5.1.3. Students' Union representative (Nominated in consultation with the Students' Union President)
 - 8.5.1.4. Societies Officer
 - 8.5.1.5. An Ex-Officio, nominated by the incoming Societies Executive, who is a non-voting person
- 8.5.2. All student members of the Societies Executive, with the exception of the President, shall work in a voluntary capacity during their term on the committee.
- 8.5.3. The President of UCC Societies shall take a paid sabbatical year of absence from their academic studies during their tenure as President. The remuneration for such a sabbatical year shall be the equivalent of the rate paid to full-time sabbatical officers of the UCC Students' Union, notwithstanding the power of an EGM or AGM of UCC Societies to change this amount. The level of remuneration may not however be changed after the President commences their tenure.
- 8.5.4. The funding for this paid sabbatical position shall be paid from the Societies Executive budget.
- 8.6. Where a vacancy occurs for the position of Vice-President, Finance Officer or OCM at any time between the AGM and the end of the first term, the Societies Executive shall convene an EGM in accordance with Articles 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 to fill the vacancy.

- 8.6.1.** Where such a vacancy occurs during the second term or the position cannot be filled at an EGM between the AGM and the end of the first term, the Societies Executive may co-opt an individual to fill that vacancy. Such a co-option shall be advertised amongst UCC students and applicants will put themselves forward in accordance with the process for nomination at the AGM. All applicants shall be interviewed by the Societies' Executive prior to the co-option. This provision shall not prevent UCC Societies from filling a vacant position in the second term in accordance with Article 6.5.
- 8.6.2.** Where a vacancy occurs for the position of President at any time during their term in office, the Vice-President, or other presiding officer, shall convene an EGM in accordance with Articles 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 to fill that vacancy.
- 8.6.3.** Where a President, Vice-President, Finance Officer or OCM ceases to serve on the Societies Executive before the end of their term, their powers and duties shall be assigned by the Societies Executive as appropriate until the vacancy is filled.
- 8.7.** The Societies Executive may co-opt up to one non-voting member to fulfill a role beyond the portfolios assigned by the President at the start of the year. This decision shall be subject to a simple majority vote of the Societies Executive and ratification by Societies Senate.

9. The Officers

- 9.1. The President shall be the chair of all meetings of the Societies' Executive. The President shall oversee the good running of the organisation. The President shall be the spokesperson for UCC student Societies on the various committees to which UCC Societies has representation on. They shall rule on the meaning of the constitution whenever any dispute arises. This may be overruled by a simple majority vote of the Societies Executive.
- 9.2. The Vice President shall act as deputy to the President and, in the absence of the President, shall act as chairperson of meetings and temporarily assume the duties of the President. The Vice-President may be assigned a secondary portfolio.
- 9.3. The Finance Officer shall manage the financial policies and allocation of funding of the Societies Executive, in conjunction with the finance sub-committee and Societies Executive. The Finance Officer shall prepare and present the financial records of the Societies Executive at the Annual General Meeting.
- 9.4. The Secretary shall keep the non-financial records of the Societies Executive. It is the responsibility of the Secretary to book the room for a Societies Executive meeting. The Secretary shall send the Societies Executive the minutes, no more than six days after each meeting (extraordinary circumstances excepting) detailing the tasks that are allocated for each relevant Societies Executive member.
- 9.5. Members of the UCC Societies Executive may not serve as either Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, or Finance Officer of any UCC Society, during their term of office.

- 9.6. The President of the UCC Societies Executive may not serve on any committee of a UCC society, beyond their role as Ex-Officio of all UCC society committees during their term of office.
- 9.7. The Finance Officer of the UCC Societies Executive may not serve as Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Finance Officer, Secretary or Public Relations Officer on any committee of a UCC Society.
- 9.8. The elected members of the Societies Executive shall serve a term commencing on the first day of June following their election and ceasing on the last day of the following May.

10. Positions

- 10.1. The student members of the Societies Executive shall be allocated portfolios by the President, one of which must be Secretary.

11. The Appeals Group

- 11.1. There shall be an independent Appeals group, hereafter referred to as 'the Appeals Group', which shall be the final tribunal of appeal within UCC Societies' and the ultimate judicial authority of UCC Societies.
- 11.2. The Appeals Group shall be made up of the Deputy President and Registrar (or nominee), the Clubs President, a nominee of the Students' Union President (drawn from the the Students' Union Executive, with the exception of the Students' Union Representative on the Societies Executive) and another

University Leadership Team member with an academic or student facing role such as a Head of College.

12. Provisional Societies

- 12.1. A new or revived society passed by the Societies Executive shall be on provisional status for at least two years, after which its status shall be reviewed. It then may be given a further period of provisional status, given full Society status or disbanded. A provisional Society shall have the same rights as a full status society. If during the period of provisional status a Society collapses they shall be recommended for disbandment by the President to the Societies' Executive.

13. Full Status Societies

- 13.1. A full status society shall have rights to poster in the university within UCC Societies' guidelines, rights to book rooms within the procedures of the relevant offices of UCC, rights to hold events on campus and to represent the society off campus.

14. Disbandment of Societies

- 14.1. The Societies Executive are empowered to commence disbanding of Societies which have been dormant for more than one year. It shall also be empowered to recommend the disbandment of a Society which has brought Societies of UCC into disrepute. On disbandment, the Society shall no longer be recognised as a UCC Society.

- 14.2. The Societies Executive are empowered to disband a Society if the Society has refused to adhere to regulations issued by the Executive, the Society has refused to acknowledge the Executive as the regulatory body for UCC Societies or for other stated misbehaviour.
- 14.3. Verbal and written warning should be given to the Society before notice of disbandment, where possible, in an effort to afford to the Society an opportunity to correct the relevant misbehaviour. However in circumstances where the Societies Executive feels that the stated misbehaviour is serious enough, they may proceed directly with deletion.
- 14.4. The Society has the right to complain to the Societies Executive at any stage in this process and their complaint should be considered in a timely fashion and responded to accordingly.
- 14.5. If a society has been disbanded, its revival through the new societies process cannot begin for at least two years after the date of disbandment.

15. Dismissal from the Societies Executive

- 15.1. In the event of poor performance, or other stated misbehaviour, by a two thirds majority of the Executive rounded upwards the Vice-President, Finance Officer, an OCM or a SU Representative may be removed from the committee. The officer concerned may with the support of fifteen Societies call an EGM to appeal the decision.
- 15.2. The Vice-President, Finance Officer, an OCM or an SU Representative may also be impeached by an EGM called for that stated purpose.

- 15.3. The President may only be removed by an EGM called for that stated purpose.

16. Finance Subcommittee

- 16.1. This shall be responsible for the making of grants, special applications, and other financial aid to Societies. It shall be made up of:
- 16.1.1. The President
 - 16.1.2. The Finance Officer
 - 16.1.3. The Societies Officer
 - 16.1.4. The Senior Executive Assistant
- 16.2. A secretary shall be appointed each year from one of the above.
- 16.3. Its decisions are binding once ratified by the Societies Executive.

17. Interpretation of the Constitution and Amendments

- 17.1. The Societies Executive shall rule on the meaning of the constitution whenever any dispute arises. This may be overruled by a majority vote of Societies at an EGM called for that purpose.
- 17.2. Amendments to this constitution may be made at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Societies Executive.
- 17.3. This Societies Executive's constitution and policies made by the Societies Executive supercedes all individual society constitutions and policies whenever any contradictions arise.

Record of Amendments

Amended by Kayla Maher and Adam Burke and passed at Societies Senate on November 11th 2020.

Amended by Mair Kelly at Societies Senate on April 26th 2023.

Amended by Caoímhe Collins and passed at Societies Senate on October 21st 2025.

Ends