

# QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

## STUDENTS' UNION CONSTITUTIONAL RULES

### Rule 8

#### SOCIETIES

1 No Society shall be recognised if its aims or objectives are contrary to the Charter and Statutes of the University, or the Students' Union Constitution or Constitutional Rules. The Vice-Chancellor may determine that the aims or objectives of a Society are contrary to the terms or spirit of the Students' Union Constitution. If such a determination is made, the Vice-Chancellor, pending the next meeting of the University Senate, may withhold or withdraw approval. The decision by the Vice-Chancellor shall be ratified or amended by the Senate.

Also, the Students' Union Executive Management Committee shall have the power to impose such penalty or penalties as it deems necessary upon any recognised Society which in its determination has acted in a manner contrary to the terms and spirit of the Constitution, subject to a right of appeal to the Students' Union Council.

2 A society formed by students shall have the right to make applications to the Council, through the Vice President Clubs and Societies, for the status of a recognised society. Such an application shall be accompanied by a copy of the society's constitution and a list of not less than fifteen Student Members.

All clubs and societies must abide by the provisions stipulated within the Students' Union Protocol for Grant Allocation and Financial Regulations Governing the Activities of Queen's University Belfast Societies.

3 Procedures for Recognition of a Society.

3.1 No society, nor any ethnic, racial or religious group, whose aim is prejudicial to the aims and objectives of the Constitution of the Students' Union, shall be recognised.

3.2 A student seeking to obtain recognition for a society should approach the Vice President Clubs and Societies for advice.

3.3 A student should then submit a constitution for the new society and the list of at least fifteen Student Members, along with the student numbers of those Student Members, to the Vice President Clubs and Societies, together with a Business Plan for the proposed society. This Business Plan should outline the financial regulations that the proposed society intends to enforce, in order to ensure its adherence to the University's Financial Regulations.

3.4 The society must have a proposer and a seconder to be submitted to the subsequent Council meeting for a vote on its recognition.

3.5 A representative of the society, who is also a Student Member of the society, must attend the Statutory Meeting of Council that is scheduled to consider the granting of recognition to that society, in order to answer any questions that may arise with regard to the application.

3.6 Approved status shall be granted to those societies (excluding religious and political societies) that have operated in accordance with the provisions within the Constitution and its Rules for a period of one year.

4 Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the list of recognised societies, as outlined in Section 15 of this Rule, shall be amended on a motion to that effect being carried out by a simple majority of those present and voting at a meeting of the Council, provided that notice of the motion has been included in the notice of the meeting. Such an amendment shall be reported to the Directorate of Academic and Student Affairs.

5 Each recognised or approved society shall hold an annual general meeting [AGM] at which the officers of the society shall be elected. The AGM should take place no later than 31 May, so that the society's Committee is in place for the start of the following academic year. In exceptional circumstances, permission to hold the AGM later than this date must be sought in writing prior to 31 May from the Vice President Clubs and Societies.

6 Only students shall be eligible to become an Officer of a recognised or approved society. Students who are enrolled on a course of study at St Mary's University College, Stranmillis University College, and any and all institutions with which the University has a collaborative agreement, shall be eligible to become members of a recognised or approved society.

7 Each approved society shall make an annual report to the Vice President Clubs and Societies as part of their grant application, by no later than 1 November.

The annual report shall state:

7.1 the name of the society;

7.2 the total number of Student Members of the society;

7.3 the total number of members of the society;

7.4 the names and student numbers of the Officers of the society;

7.5 the contact address of the society;

7.6 the activities of the society since the previous report;

7.7 the proposed activities of the society during the period for which the grant application is being submitted.

8 Any approved society shall have the right to make a grant application to the Vice-President Clubs and Societies.

Process for grant application:

8.1 A society has the right to apply for grant after being in operation for one year;

8.2 Application shall be made in writing to the Vice President Clubs and Societies.

9 All recognised and approved societies shall adhere to the financial regulations contained in its Business Plan that was submitted prior to recognition being granted by the Council.

10 Any ruling by the Vice President Clubs and Societies regarding the Constitution of a recognised or approved society shall be final, subject to the right of appeal to the Council.

11 The Executive Management Committee may suspend a recognised or approved society which has failed to fulfil any of the obligations contained in its Business Plan or stipulated as part of their recognition, subject to ratification by Council at the next available meeting.

12 The Executive Management Committee shall have the power to impose such penalty or penalties as it deems necessary upon any recognised or approved society which has acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the student body, subject to the right of appeal to the Council.

13 Recognised or approved societies shall not make any public statement (which shall include any statement on the worldwide web) on behalf of the society, unless such a statement complies with the terms and spirit of the Constitution.

14. Neither the Union President nor the Students' Union shall be responsible for the actions or opinions of any society.

15. There will be a list of recognised and approved societies.

NOTE: The lists of recognised and approved societies are not included in this document, but current lists shall be made available by the Vice President Clubs and Societies upon request.

16. No religious or political societies may be granted approved status, nor shall such societies be permitted to apply for grant aid from the Union.