



BRISTOL SU
the best student life

The Richmond Building
105 Queens Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8
1LN
Tel (0117) 331 8600

www.bristolsu.org.uk

University of Bristol Students' Union Philosophy Society

1. NAME

- a. The name of the Society shall be the Bristol SU (University of Bristol Students' Union) Philosophy Society (hereafter mentioned as 'the society').
- b. The Society shall be affiliated with the University of Bristol Students' Union and represented by the Societies' Network.

2. AIMS

- a. The society aims to organise events which facilitate philosophical thought, inspire discussion and foster a supportive community for those studying and interested in Philosophy. Such events are intended to appeal to and reflect the diverse character of its potential and/or current members.
- b. The society is committed to organising regular talks by distinguished lecturers, current and former students and external speakers who may benefit the society's aims. We will also hold regular discussion groups either as part of or in addition to said talks. Membership of the society allows one to freely participate in all such events.
- c. The society is affiliated with the University of Bristol Philosophy Department, as a source of additional funding and as an organisation with many crossovers with the society. However, it is essential to the society that it is not solely for members of the Philosophy Department and exists somewhat independently in terms of its organisation and membership.
- d. The society aims to promote thought and discussion which in character is both open and critical; abiding by the principle of charity wherever possible and encouraging intellectual rigour for the good of its members.
- e. The society acknowledges Philosophy as an art and aims to nurture a creative and playful atmosphere which inspires and encourages new ideas and unseen connections between concepts.
- f. The society aims to make attendance of many of its events as free from barriers as possible; including considerations around access needs and severe financial hardship.
- g. The society shall abide by the Union's Code of Conduct, and any other policies laid down by the Union's Board of Trustees.

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3. MEMBERSHIP

- a. Full membership is open to all full members of the Union by application to the Society.
- b. Associate membership is open to all other persons who are associate members of the Union.
- c. Not less than three-quarters of the Society members shall be full members of the Union.
- d. The Secretary shall keep a list of all members, differentiating between full and associate members. The Secretary shall inform the Student Services Team of the membership of the Society each year.
- e. There shall be a subscription fee levied for membership, which shall be fixed at the discretion of the Committee being no less than the minimum rate demanded by the Union.

4. PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

- a. Only members may sit on the Committee.
- b. Only full members may vote in Committee elections.
- c. All categories of membership shall have equal rights of attending meetings etc.

5. COMMITTEE

- a. There shall be a Society Committee which shall be the executive decision-making body of the Society.
- b. The President, Secretary, Treasurer and Equality Officer of the Committee shall be full members of the Union.
- c. The Committee shall be responsible for the general and financial policy of the Society, subject to such rules as laid out in the Union's Constitution and Byelaws, and any rulings made by the Union.
- d. Quoracy for Committee meetings shall be set at 50% of the post filled positions plus one.
- e. All Committee meetings must be minuted by the Secretary (or other Committee member if they are unavailable) and the minutes circulated to the Committee before the next committee meeting.
- f. The Committee is comprised of:

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President – in charge of running the society, setting the direction and ensuring the society is fulfilling its aims. Chairs meetings, ensures members' views are heard, delegates jobs to committee members. Helps facilitate networking with staff at the university and other university philosophy societies. Helps plan and organise social events.

Vice-President – deputises presidential responsibilities. Assists in key decisions and is acting president in the event of presidential absence or illness.

Secretary – takes minutes at meetings. Organises parenting scheme. Works with the president and vice-president to organise social events. Assists president with administration and record-keeping.

Equality Officer – main responsibility for issues of inclusion and accessibility. Point of contact for the equalities and wellbeing at the society.

Treasurer – in control of the finances of the society, including price of membership and socials. Responsible for providing information on budgeting possibilities, applying for grants and seeking sponsorship.

Media Representative – point of contact for the society social media pages. In charge of advertising events through the various online channels and sending out regular newsletters to keep members informed. Taking photos and videos to share online.

Engagement Officer – responsible for soliciting feedback from members and ensuring the society is working for them.

Organisation and promotion of the weekly discussion groups and talks with speakers on topics of a philosophical nature will be the joint responsibility of the whole committee and will be calendared in advance. In addition, all committee members will be jointly responsible for moderation of online spaces such as comment sections, group messenger chats and forums affiliated with the society across all platforms, to ensure the paramount safety and freedom from harassment or provocation of its members. Suspension or expulsion of members from these online spaces will be at the committee's discretion upon review of the severity and consistency of the abuses.

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6. FINANCIAL

- a. The Treasurer of the Society shall be a full member of the Union and not in their final year at the University. However, if given approval by the Union, a final year student may take the position.
- b. All financial arrangements must be made in accordance with current instructions to Society Treasurers, as set down by the Union.
- c. The Bristol SU Union Affairs Officer, Sport and Student Development Officer and Director of Finance shall jointly be empowered to issue financial instructions on behalf of the Society if:
 - (i) the affiliated student group ceases to be affiliated
 - (ii) there are concerns that the funds are being managed in breach of the provision set out in the Byelaws
 - (iii) the group ceases to exist or there are breaches of any minimum standards set out in Union policy

7. GENERAL MEETINGS

- a. There shall be an Annual General Meeting once per annum, and this shall be during Teaching Block 2.
- b. Notice of such meetings must be sent to the Society's membership via email with at least 14 days' notice. An agenda must be sent out with at least 7 days' notice.
- c. Quorum of such meetings shall be set at twice the Committee size plus one.
- d. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by either the Committee or 5% of the membership of the Society by application to the Committee. An EGM shall be called as specified on the application, but at least 7 days' notice shall be given.

8. ELECTIONS

- a. Elections shall be held at the Annual General Meeting to elect officers of the Committee for the following annual session. Officers can only be removed from their posts by an EGM or AGM. Nominations must be received 7 days in advance.
- b. If Committee positions are left unfilled after the AGM, then the Committee shall have the power to co-opt Society members onto the Committee to fill

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the vacant posts. However, co-opted Committee members are not regarded as full Committee members and can be removed by the Committee at any time.

- c. Voting shall be by single transferable vote and shall be conducted by a show of hands if the position is uncontested, having asked the candidate to leave the AGM room. If the position is contested, then ballot papers shall be issued to those voting and a count taken of the ballot papers by a Committee member. In the event of a tie, the outgoing President shall have the deciding vote.

9. AFFILIATIONS

- a. The Society shall affiliate to external bodies only where membership of those bodies is essential to the fulfilment of the core aims, and only with the prior agreement of the Union.

10. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

- a. Any amendment to this constitution shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present at a properly constituted General Meeting.
- b. All such amendments shall become valid only after approval by the Union.

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