

Constitution  
of  
The Cecilian Society,  
University of Glasgow

Amended — 2nd December 2010

## **1 Name**

The name of the Society shall be “The Cecilian Society, University of Glasgow”.

## **2 Aim**

The aim of the Society shall be the furtherance of interest in music and theatre in Glasgow, particularly within the student body of the University of Glasgow.

## **3 Membership**

- i. Ordinary membership of the Society shall be open to:
  - a. All matriculated students of the University of Glasgow (hereafter referred to as “matriculated students”).
  - b. Graduates and staff of the University of Glasgow.
  - c. Students at other Universities and colleges.
  - d. All others who share the aim of the Society.

Membership shall be granted at the discretion of the Committee but at no time shall matriculated students constitute less than 70% of the total Ordinary membership of the Society.

- ii. Only Ordinary members may vote at General Meetings.
- iii. Honorary members may only be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Society.
- iv. Ordinary membership of the Society shall be constituted by the payment to the Society of the prescribed subscription from time to time applicable and shall terminate on the following 31st August.

## 4 Equal Opportunities

- i. The Society shall abide by the Equal Opportunities Act 2010 and other relevant laws.
- ii. Membership of the Society shall not be restricted based upon any person's race, colour, ethnic or national origin, religion, beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental disability, state of health, appearance, status or family circumstances.

## 5 Committee

- i. The management of the Society and the administration of its affairs shall be conducted by the Committee.
- ii. The Committee of the Society shall comprise:
  - a. The President, the Vice-President, the Secretary and the Treasurer which four posts shall constitute the Executive.
  - b. Six non-Executive Ordinary Committee members.
  - c. *Ex officio* the Immediate Past President.
  - d. Up to two other non-Executive Ordinary Committee members co-opted onto the Committee in accordance with Article 4(vii).
- iii. Only Ordinary members of the Society may serve on the Committee. A minimum of seven Committee members (excluding the Past President) must, at the time of their election, be matriculated students and at least one of these must be a member of the Executive.
- iv. A member may not hold office in more than one position at the same time.
- v. Subject to Articles 4 (vi) and (viii) below, the Committee members shall be elected by the Ordinary members of the Society at the Annual General Meeting. They shall hold office from the time of their election until the following Annual General Meeting.
- vi.
  - a. In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Committee, the Committee shall appoint an Ordinary member of the Society to fill the vacancy, except in the case of an Executive member, in which case an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called to elect a successor to fill the vacancy.

- b. If at the time of such appointment or election there are less than seven matriculated students serving on the Committee, or no matriculated students serving on the Executive, then only a matriculated student shall be eligible for appointment or election to fill the vacancy.
- vii. Notwithstanding Article 4(v), the Committee shall have the power to co-opt up to two Ordinary members of the Society to serve on the Committee provided that, if immediately prior to the co-option there are less than seven matriculated students serving on the Committee then only a matriculated student may be co-opted.
- viii. The Committee shall have the power to appoint Sub-Committees, and may delegate to these such powers and duties as it deems appropriate. Members of the Society who are not members of the Committee may be appointed members of these. The President may at his discretion sit *ex officio* on any Sub-Committee but in any event at all times at least one member of the main Committee must sit on every Sub-Committee.
- ix.
  - a. For the purposes of Article 4(vi) a vacancy shall be deemed to occur upon the death, resignation, permanent incapacity or insanity of any Committee member.
  - b. Any Committee member who, without good cause, has failed to attend two thirds of the Committee meetings convened in any three month period shall be deemed to have resigned if a simple majority of the Committee so determine.
  - c. Any non-Executive Committee member shall be deemed to have resigned if eight members of the Committee support a motion to remove him or her from the Committee. Any member of the Executive shall be deemed to have resigned if two thirds of the members present at an Extraordinary General Meeting support a motion to remove him or her from office.
  - d. Any Executive Committee member may only relinquish his or her duties 30 days after the receipt of a letter of resignation by either the Secretary or the President.
- x. The Committee shall be empowered to open, operate and close such a bank or building society accounts in the name of the Society as they consider necessary.
- xi. The Committee may authorise any member of the Society to pursue a court action on behalf of the Society.

- xii. The liability for all debts arising from a decision of the Committee will lie jointly and severally with all members of the Committee at the time the decision was taken. The liability for all debts incurred as a direct result of a decision of a General Meeting shall be with members of the Society jointly and severally.

## 6 Committee Meetings

- i. A meeting of the Committee shall be convened as often as the Committee shall decide, or whenever the President or the Secretary think necessary or on the argued request of not less than six members of the Committee. In any event, during the University session a Committee meeting shall be convened at least once in every four weeks.
- ii. The Secretary shall place on the agenda for the next meeting any matter sent to them by any member of the Society. Decisions on such matters shall be notified by electronic mail or in writing by the Secretary to the member concerned.
- iii. A quorum of the Committee shall consist of six members or of a simple majority of Committee members, whichever is the greater.
- iv. The President of the Society shall be the Chairman of the Committee; in his absence the chair shall be taken by the Vice-President, whom failing by a member of the Committee appointed by the meeting.
- v. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to take the minutes of all meetings of the Committee, such minutes being available to be read on request by all members of the Society. If the Secretary is unable to take the minutes, a member present shall be appointed to do so.
- vi. The Committee may invite certain persons to attend Committee meetings.
- vii. Each member of the Committee shall have one vote. In the event of an equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
- viii. The final meeting of the Committee shall take place immediately before the Annual General Meeting at which the Committee is due to retire.

## 7 General Meetings

- i. A General Meeting shall be either the Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting.
- ii. The quorum of a General Meeting shall consist of twenty Ordinary members or fifteen percent of the Ordinary membership, whichever is the lesser.
- iii. The President shall Chair all General Meetings of the Society; in his absence the Chair shall be taken by the Vice-President, whom failing by an Ordinary member of the Society whom the Meeting shall appoint.
- iv. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to take the minutes of all General Meetings of the Society or to arrange for a deputy to take the minutes in case of absence.
- v. Only Ordinary members may vote at any General Meeting. In the event of an equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote except in the case of elections. In the case of elections the Chair shall not have an initial deliberative vote except in the case of an equality of votes, in which case the Chair shall have a single casting vote. Only those Ordinary members present at the General Meeting shall be entitled to vote. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.
- vi. The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held on a weekday within the month of May, or as soon as reasonably practical thereafter.
- vii. Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given to all Ordinary members by electronic mail or in writing at least three weeks beforehand.
- viii. At the Annual General Meeting of the Society two persons shall be appointed Auditors of the Society Accounts. The said Auditors must not be members of the Committee and need not be members of the Society.
- ix. An audited copy of the Society Accounts for the previous financial year shall be presented for approval at the Annual General Meeting.
- x. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society shall be called on the signed request of not less than six members of the Committee or

on the signed request of not less than twenty Ordinary members of the Society stating the purposes for which the meeting is to be called.

- xi. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society may only be held on a weekday in term time.
- xii. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society shall be held within fourteen (but not less than seven) days of the date on which the Secretary received the signed request as in Article 6(x), above, except where it would fall on a University holiday or in the first week of term, in which case it shall be held on the earliest succeeding weekday.
- xiii. Within forty-eight hours after receiving the signed request as in Article 6(x), above, the Secretary shall intimate by electronic mail or in writing to all the Ordinary members of the Society the time and place of the Extraordinary General Meeting and the purposes for which it has been called.
- xiv. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall deal only with the matters for which it has been called.

## 8 Elections

- i. Elections shall normally take place at the Annual General Meeting of the Society.
- ii. Nominations, which shall be in writing with the Proposer's and Sec-  
onder's signatures and the Nominee's consent by signature, shall be  
addressed to the Secretary. The Secretary shall advise any member on  
request of what nominations have been received.
- iii. Nominations shall open on the day on which notice is given of the  
General Meeting and shall close twenty-four hours before the start of  
the General Meeting.
- iv. In the event of there being no written nominations for a position, ver-  
bal nominations will be accepted at the General Meeting, but only if  
written proof of consent or verbal consent of the Nominee is given.
- v. In the event of a candidate having been defeated in an election for a  
previous position for which he had a written nomination then, where  
an election follows for another position, a verbal nomination for this  
defeated candidate shall be accepted and such verbal nomination shall  
have the full effect of a written nomination and in this case no other  
verbal nominations will be accepted.
- vi. If there is only one nomination for a position, including verbal nomi-  
nations of defeated candidates as in Article 7(v), that Nominee shall  
be deemed to have been elected unopposed.
- vii. In the event of an insufficiency of nominations for Ordinary Committee  
Members, those Nominees who have been nominated in writing shall,  
subject to Article 4(iii), be deemed to have been elected unopposed  
and only the remaining posts shall be open to verbal nominations.
- viii. All voting in elections shall be by secret ballot, except in the case of  
elections for Honorary members, where this shall not be obligatory.
- ix. Nomination speeches may only be given for Executive positions.

## **9 Constitution**

- i. Amendments to the Constitution may only be made at a General Meeting of the Society. Such Amendments, which shall be in writing with the Proposer's and Seconder's signatures, must be in the hands of the Secretary twenty-four hours before the start of the General Meeting.
- ii. Amendments to Amendments will be accepted at any time.
- iii. A Constitutional Amendment must be passed by at least two thirds of the Ordinary members present before it shall take effect.

## **10 Executive Power**

- i. Any two members of the Executive acting together shall be empowered to sign cheques drawn on any account held in the name of the Society or to make withdrawals from any such account.
- ii. Any contract the value of which exceeds £250 requiring to be entered into on behalf of the Society in implement of a decision of a General Meeting or of a Committee meeting shall be in writing and must be signed by two members of the Executive.

## **11 Property**

The property of the Society shall be owned jointly by the members for the time being. No property of the Society may be alienated without the authority of the Committee.

## **12 Dissolution**

- i. The Society may be dissolved only at a General Meeting called for that specific purpose and no other on seventy-five percent of the membership for the time being voting in favour of a motion for dissolution.
- ii. On dissolution the property of the Society shall be used to discharge the obligations of the Society, and any remaining property shall be transferred to a body or organisation nominated by the General Meeting which has aims similar to those of the Society as specified in Article 2.