

Laws of the University Philosophical Society

University Philosophical Society, Trinity College, Dublin

323rd Session

I Fundamental Regulations

1. The Society shall be called the University Philosophical Society, Trinity College, Dublin.
2. The Society shall consist of a Senior Patron, Patrons, Honorary Members, Ordinary Members and Life Members.
3. All those people who are paying the capitation fee and who pay the annual subscription shall be Ordinary Members of the Society for the Session.
4. The Objects of the Society shall be to afford to its members opportunities of discussing Philosophical, Literary, Cultural, Political and Scientific subjects, to encourage the practice of Written Composition and Oral Debate and to provide general facilities for its members. This may include, upon the raising of standing orders, concerts and other meetings of a more general nature.
5. The Officers of any Session shall not be eligible for the Marked Thanks or the Thanks of the Society if fewer than ten Public Business Meetings have been held in that Session.
6. The management of the affairs of the Society shall be entrusted to the Council.
7. A Session of the Society shall begin at midnight on the day following the Final Private Business Meeting of the preceding Session and shall end at the adjournment of the Final Private Business Meeting of that Session.
8. At any ordinary meeting of the Society, a majority shall be binding in division unless provided; in the case of an equality of votes, the Chair shall have the casting vote in addition to his personal vote.
9. Members may be fined for attending any meeting of the society if not wearing academic dress.
10. The Laws of the Society shall not be amended to nor altered, except at a general meeting by motion on notice, and after the first reading, such alteration, until the division on its second reading, shall have precedence over all motions and resolutions requiring notice, and shall become absolute on the second reading. No amendment may be proposed on the second reading.

II Members

Honorary Members

1. The Society shall have the power to elect Honorary Members. The names of candidates for Honorary Membership shall be first submitted to the Council, and if approved by them, shall be formally proposed and seconded by motion open to discussion, and elected separately by ballot; the result of such an election shall not be valid unless at least twenty-one members vote. A super-majority of two-thirds shall be necessary for such a motion to pass.
2. Present members of the University shall not be eligible for Honorary Membership unless they are of Bachelor of Arts or equivalent standing, or the academic year in which they held office (including Honorary Member of Council) has elapsed.
3. Any person who has received the Marked Thanks of the Society shall be eligible for Honorary Membership without first obtaining the approval of the Council.
4. Members of the Oxford Union Society, the Cambridge Union Society, the Durham Union Society and the Edinburgh University Union shall be Honorary Members, as shall be the members of the other University Unions with which the Society has membership arrangements.
5. Honorary Members shall have all the rights of Ordinary Members, without payment of the annual subscription, but shall not have the privilege of competing for any prizes of the Society, nor shall they be eligible for any of the Society's Offices, seats on Council, or membership of the electorate.

Patrons

6. The Society shall have the power to elect Patrons. The names of candidates shall be first submitted to the Council, and if approved by them, shall be formally proposed and seconded by motion open to discussion, and elected separately by ballot; the result of such an election shall not be valid unless at least twenty-one members vote. A super-majority of two-thirds shall be necessary for such a motion to pass.
7. They shall remain Patrons of the Society for life or until the title is removed by motion on notice. A super-majority of two-thirds shall be necessary for such a motion to pass.

8. The Senior Patron of the Society shall be the Provost of Trinity College, until the end of his office, at which stage there will be a review of his position.

Ordinary Members

9. All eligible members shall become members of the Society for the duration of the Session on the payment of the annual subscription.
10. A member who ceases to be eligible for membership shall continue to be a member until the close of the Session in question.

Life Members

11. Any person who has been a member of the Society may, subject to the approval of Council, become a Life Member upon payment of the Life Membership Subscription.
12. Life Members shall have all the rights of Ordinary Members, but shall not have the privilege of competing for any prizes of the Society, nor shall they be eligible for any of the Society's Offices, seats on Council, or membership of the electorate.

III Election of Officers and Council

1. A general election to the Offices and Council of the Society, excepting the office of Schools Convenor, shall be held in the final three weeks of College Lectures, on a day appointed by the President. To be eligible for election to any Office or seat on Council, a member must have been a member since the first day of January of that Session, and must have spoken on a motion at either a Private or Public Business Meeting at least five times for the offices of President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar and Debates Convenor, three times for all other Offices, and twice for the position of Ordinary Member of Council.
2. The electorate shall consist of all members of the Society, except those disqualified under the Laws.
3. No more than one speech on a motion shall count as a speech for the purposes of Section 1 in any given week.
4. The delivery of a paper to a Public Business Meeting of the Society shall be the equivalent of two speeches.
5. Candidates for all Offices are to be elected by means of single transferable vote (STV). Candidates for seats on Council are to be elected by

means of proportional representation by the single transferable vote (PR-STV). If after these methods of separation of the candidates have been effected, there remains a tie for any Office or seat on Council, the election shall be determined by lot.

6. Only one member may vote on a single ballot paper.
7. Each member shall sign his name inside the envelope in which he places his ballot.
8. No member who is indebted to the Society may vote or be a candidate in any election.
9. Before the night of nominations, a sub-committee shall be created under privileged motion no. 8, consisting of five members of the Society, chaired by the Vice-President, to enquire into the conduct of the Officers and Ordinary Members of Council during the Session (i.e. the Officers' Conduct Report). There shall be no Officers on this committee, and there shall be a maximum of three Ordinary Members of Council, including the Vice-President. All submissions to the sub-committee shall take place in private, and absolute confidentiality shall pertain to all its workings. This sub-committee shall report to the Society at the Final Private Business Meeting. The Marked Thanks of the Society shall be awarded only to such Officers as the sub-committee shall declare to deserve them, and the Thanks of the Society only to such Ordinary Members of Council as the sub-committee shall declare to deserve them. The quorum of the sub-committee shall be three, and the sub-committee shall have the power to elect a new member should one resign.
10. Every Officer and Ordinary Member of Council shall vacate his seat at the close of the Session. Officers may not run again for the same position.
11. On the night of a meeting following a casual vacancy on Council, the President shall announce that nominations for such vacancy will be received on the next night of meeting. The procedure from the general election shall be followed, with exceptions where appropriate.

Prior To and On the Night of Nominations

12. On the night of a meeting at least one week previous to the night upon which nominations will be received, the President shall announce the appointment by the council of an election overseer. The election overseer shall be an Honorary Member in good standing with the society. The overseer shall have general discretion regarding governance of the

election, and responsibility for appointing tellers on the day of election. Should events before or on the day of election lead to said election being cast into doubt, the election overseer shall have responsibility for the forming of an impeachment committee. This committee will have powers of impeachment over the election as a whole, and/or denial of candidacy if evidence of foul play is detected. The decisions of this committee are subject to the approval of an emergency general meeting of the society, to be called within 48 hours of a decision being reached, excepting weekends. This committee shall consist of the election overseer as chair, the President, and three others who are not standing for election, as appointed by the chair.

13. On the night of a meeting at least one week previous to the night upon which nominations will be received, the President shall announce: i) that nomination will be received for all Offices and seats on Council for the next Session at the subsequent night of meeting, and ii) state the rules concerning those members who are indebted by fine to the Society, particularly Section 8.
14. At least four days prior to the day of an election, the Treasurer shall publish a list of those members indebted to the Society. Members who have not settled their debts before the day of election will not be eligible to vote.
15. At least four days prior to the day of an election, all candidates for any Office or seat on Council shall be proposed and seconded. Upon completion of proposal and secondment of candidates, candidates for the office of President shall be afforded an opportunity to address the Society for not more than four minutes. It should be noted that this is the only point at which any candidate may make appeals on behalf of their candidacy. All other forms of canvassing are expressly forbidden.
16. The Registrar shall cause each candidate to sign a statement prior to the election, which shall then be published on the notice board of the Society. In this statement, the candidate shall agree to abide by the regulations regarding the conduct of elections, in particular, the prohibition on canvassing, under penalty to be determined by the election overseer or impeachment committee as per section 12 in case of a breach of the regulations. Any candidate who shall fail to sign this statement prior to the election shall be deemed ineligible to contest the election and be removed from the ballot.

Prior To the Day of Election

17. Any person who is appointed a teller who is then nominated for any Office or seat on Council in the election shall cease to occupy the

position of teller, and the election overseer shall select a replacement.

18. Candidates will not be permitted to enter the rooms where the election is taking place, save to cast their own vote. Each candidate for an Office may appoint one scrutineer to act on his behalf on the day of the election.
19. The Registrar shall cause each teller to sign a statement prior to the election, which shall then be published on the notice board of the Society. In this statement, the teller shall agree to abide by the regulations regarding the conduct of elections, under penalty to be determined by the election overseer or impeachment committee as per section 12 in case of a breach of the regulations.
20. The election overseer shall draw up and cause to be printed the ballot papers prior to the election. The order in which the names of candidates will appear on the ballot papers shall be determined by lot in a public manner by the election overseer.

On and After the Day of Election

21. On the day of election, at least two tellers shall be present at all times to distribute a ballot paper upon request to any member of the electorate.
22. There shall be only one ballot box, to be located in the rooms of the Society. In all elections, the ballot shall open not later than 11am and close not earlier than 5.30pm on the day of the election.
23. An account shall be kept on the electoral list of those who have voted, as well as an account of the number of papers printed, distributed and placed in the ballot box, which later shall be recorded in the report presented by the election overseer. On the day of election, the election overseer shall publicly scrutinise these papers, and present to the Society a report declaring the above facts and the result at the next Private Business Meeting, which shall be the Final Private Business Meeting of the Session.
24. The Officers and Council shall be declared elected by the President upon the presentation of the election overseer's report. At the Final Private Business Meeting, reports shall be taken as the last item of business, and all other reports shall take precedence over the election overseer's report.
25. The Officers and Council shall enter into office immediately upon the declaration of the election and shall hold office until the next Final Private Business Meeting.

IV The President

1. The President shall be the chief Officer of the Society, and shall, if present, take the chair at all meetings of the Society, except the Opening Meeting. The President may, with the approval of Council, appoint some other person to act as Chair.
2. The President shall deliver an address at the Opening Meeting of the Session. The President shall be responsible for arranging this meeting.
3. The President (or Chair) may at any time address the house from the chair; he shall not be marked for any paper or speech delivered from the chair. The Chair may appoint a substitute and leave the chair for the purpose of delivering a paper or a speech, and shall immediately resume it when this address is finished.
4. The President shall be the immediate interpreter of all questions relating to law and order. Such interpretations shall be recorded by the Registrar at the request of any member present, in a special book for that purpose, and shall be subject to the decision of Council.
5. The President shall have the power to impose fines for all breaches of order during the meeting of the Society, which shall then be recorded by the Treasurer in a special book for that purpose. Such a fine can be remitted by means of privileged motion no. 9 at any of the three Private Business Meetings following its announcement in the house. A fine can also be challenged directly after its announcement by saying "Challenge, Mr. (or Madam) President". A division shall be taken on whether the fine should stand if six members present support such a challenge.
6. The President shall have the power to suspend a member for a specified period, not to exceed the conclusion of the meeting. The President may be fined for any abuse of this procedure at a subsequent Council meeting of that Session.
7. When any Officer is not present at a meeting, the President shall appoint a substitute to hold the Office until the arrival of such Officer, the substitute being a member of Council.
8. The President may at any time request a member of Council to resign for reasons which he deems sufficient.
9. If any Office shall become vacant, the President shall appoint a member of Council to hold the Office until the termination of such vacancy.
10. The President shall be responsible for promulgating and maintaining relations with the other Society.

V The Secretary

1. The Secretary shall convene the Public Business Meetings of the Society, and so normally obtain the papers to be read in Public Business, allot nights to the student essayists, and also to provide Speakers and Guests to reply. The Secretary shall also convene all debates which are not the responsibility of the Debates Convenor in a similar fashion. The Secretary shall be subject to the Council, and shall report regularly with regard to his work under this section.
2. The Secretary shall arrange the travel, accommodation and entertainment of guests of the Society. The Secretary shall also be responsible for the booking of Commons when appropriate.
3. The Secretary shall obtain and place upon the notice board of the Society a copy of the order paper forty-eight hours before the meeting.
4. The Secretary shall carry on the general correspondence of the Society.
5. The Secretary shall provide and maintain the stationery of the Society.
6. The Secretary shall give an account of the year's proceedings of the Society in report form to the Central Societies Committee of Trinity College, Dublin.
7. The Secretary shall issue the Society's Press Releases and liaise with the Public Press.

VI The Treasurer

1. The Treasurer shall have overall responsibility for the proper administration of the Society's finances. No decision by the Council collectively, or the Officers, to expend moneys shall be validly enforceable without the consent of both the Treasurer and President. No decision to expend moneys shall be validly made enforceable without the consent of Council.
2. The Treasurer shall have overall responsibility for the seeking of financial assistance for the Society and its major Public Business Meetings.
3. The Treasurer shall receive the Subscriptions and Fines of members.
4. The Treasurer shall record the fines of members in a special book for that purpose. Such fines shall be dealt in accordance with Chapter XIV, Section 6.

5. The Treasurer shall keep an account of the sums received and expended, mentioning from who received and how expended. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to have the accounts of the Society audited for the Session.
6. The Treasurer shall cause to be distributed to the Officers and Council an outline budget for the Session no later than the first day of July of that Session, which shall be discussed by Council.
7. The Treasurer shall draw up a report giving details of the Society's current financial position and estimates of income and expenditure for the remainder of the Session before the second week of Hilary Term. This report shall be discussed by Council.
8. The Treasurer shall always, when required to do so by Council, give a detailed account of the Society's finances.
9. All reports on financial matters which the Treasurer shall deliver are to be treated with the strictest confidence by Council.
10. The Treasurer shall be responsible for liaising with the Central Societies Committee with regard to the accounts of the Society.
11. The Treasurer shall pay into the bank nominated by Council all sums received on behalf of the Society.
12. The Treasurer shall repay all sums owed to the Society's members within one month of receiving receipts for such sums, unless exceptional circumstances prevent him from doing so.
13. The Treasurer shall have responsibility for all matters pertaining to the Society's snooker rooms.

VII The Registrar

1. The Registrar shall register in the Minutes Books of the Society all proceedings of the Society and Council, recording also the names of the Chairs. The Registrar shall record details of proceedings under the order of Private Business, as well as the names of all respondents and speakers and the results of all divisions and votes.
2. The Registrar shall keep in a book the Proceedings of the Society appearing in the Public Press.
3. The Registrar shall record in a book special to that purpose all amendments to the laws and rulings of the President pertaining to the same. The Registrar shall ensure that all such amendments and rulings are

signed and dated by the President for that Session. The Registrar shall retain this book at all times and present it to his successor at the Final Private Business Meeting.

4. The Registrar shall ensure that all records and minutes books of the Society are kept in a secure manner.
5. The Registrar shall show the records of the Society and the manner of their preservation upon the request of any member of the Society at a Private Business Meeting. The Registrar shall fulfil this duty within one week of such a request being made.
6. The Registrar shall, subject to the control of the President, be responsible for maintaining an accurate list of the Honorary Members of the Society, with whom the Registrar shall communicate at least once during each Session to inform them of the activities of the Society.
7. The Registrar shall cause to be published in Michaelmas and Hilary terms a register of the Society's Ordinary Members, and allow the registration of any member who may have been omitted from this list.
8. The Registrar shall forward for publication the names of such members as shall obtain medals, certificates or Thanks from the Society, and also the names of Officers and Council annually elected.
9. The Registrar shall be responsible for the publication of the Laws of the Society. The Registrar shall ensure that all copies of the Laws in all media are accurate and are updated upon an amendment of the Laws.

VIII The Debates Convenor

1. The Debates Convenor shall be responsible for all matters relating to competitive debating.
2. The Debates Convenor shall organise the Society's debating competitions throughout the Session. The Debates Convenor shall convene any Public Business Meeting which forms a part of such a competition.
3. The Debates Convenor shall make arrangements for speakers representing the Society in external intervarsity debating competitions.
4. The Debates Convenor shall convene an intervarsity debating competition, to be called "The Dean Swift".

IX The Librarian

1. The Librarian shall ensure that adequate publicity, in the form of posters, leaflets or other media, be created for the events of the Society.
2. The Librarian shall distribute marking papers during the meetings of the Society.
3. The Librarian shall generally supervise the safekeeping of old bits of string and the contents of his own pockets. It shall be his duty to ensure that all documents, objects and relics in the possession of the society are kept in a secure manner.
4. The Librarian shall supervise Question Time in Private Business.
5. The Librarian shall be responsible for the publications of the Society.

X The Steward

1. The Steward shall be responsible for the provision of refreshments to members.
2. The Steward shall be responsible for the signing out of rooms of the Society and keeping a record of same.
3. The Steward shall be responsible for the booking of rooms for the Society's use.
4. The Steward shall generally supervise and keep in an orderly manner the rooms of the Society, and shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to the keys and locks of such rooms. The Steward shall ensure that members of Council surrender their keys upon their ceasing to hold that position in the Society and to present such keys to their successors for distribution at the Final Private Business Meeting.
5. The Steward shall be responsible for the provision and upkeep of entertainment facilities in the Society's rooms.
6. The Steward shall be responsible for the arrangements for Freshers' Week in each Session.

XI The Schools Convenor

1. The Schools Convenor shall be elected by Council from among the Ordinary Members of the Society at the first Council meeting of each Session. The President shall announce the results of the election for Schools Convenor at the next Private Business Meeting.

2. The Schools Convenor shall be responsible for the Society's activities in encouraging debating among second-level students. The Schools Convenor shall in particular convene a debating competition for second-level students.
3. The Schools Convenor shall be responsible for seeking financial assistance for the competition.

XII The Vice-President

1. The Vice-President shall be elected by Council from among the Ordinary Members of Council at the first Council meeting of each Session. A Council meeting at which the Vice-President is to be elected shall be chaired by the Secretary. The President shall announce the results of the election for Vice-President at the next Private Business Meeting.
2. The Vice-President shall take the chair at all meetings of Council.
3. The Vice-President shall, on all occasions, be the President's deputy, and shall assume all the presidential powers in the absence of the President.
4. The Vice-President shall chair the committee to enquire into the conduct of the Officers and Ordinary Members of Council during the Session.
5. The Vice-President shall convene the Maiden Speakers' Competition.

XIII The Council

1. The Council of the Society shall consist of eight Officers, the Ordinary Members of Council and the Honorary Members of Council. The Officers shall be the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Registrar, the Debates Convenor, the Librarian, the Steward and the Schools Convenor. There shall be seven elected Ordinary Members of Council, as well as no more than seven other Ordinary Members of Council, who shall be elected by the Council itself. The Honorary Members of Council shall be such Officers of previous Sessions as shall have been declared deserving of the Marked Thanks of the Society and are duly elected by the Council at the first council meeting of the current Session.
2. The Council shall meet once a week during Term, and when summoned by the President. The Council shall meet in the Society's rooms, and no person who is not a member thereof shall be permitted to be

present, except only that Council may at any time call any person before it and examine him.

3. Five members of Council shall be sufficient to call quorum, and the Chair shall be taken by the Vice-President, or in his absence the Secretary. In the event of quorum not being reached, the council may adjourn to The Stag's Head public house to be refreshed at the personal expense of the President.
4. The Council shall have the general management of all the affairs of the Society, and shall decide on matters of general policy. It shall have the power to make or authorise all purchases on behalf of the Society.
5. Individual members of Council may be allotted specific tasks by Council as a whole or by any Officer, and may be penalised by the President for failure to carry out such tasks.
6. The Council shall have the power to direct Officers in the fulfillment of their duties, always however subject to any resolution of the Society.
7. Save in the case of impeached proceedings, all Council decisions shall be taken by majority vote of those present and voting; if they be equally divided, the Chair shall exercise a casting vote.
8. The Council shall have the power to remove an Ordinary Member of Council for stated reason by privileged motion. A resolution to this effect shall be approved by at least two-thirds of the members of Council who are on College books. The resolution shall be debated by means of privileged motion no. 12 at the next Private Business Meeting. The resolution shall be laid aside if half the members present object.
9. The Council may summon an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society whenever it deems it necessary, providing that three days' notice of such meeting be given to the Society, except in the case of a meeting convened solely to ratify the decisions of the impeachment committee as per Chapter III, Section 12.
10. The Council shall have the power to select essays for publication in the Proceedings of the Society from among those recommended to compete for Medals.
11. The Council's decisions can only be overruled by express resolution of the Society.
12. A regular day and time is to be allocated for Council Meetings. This may only be varied in exceptional circumstances with a minimum of twenty-four hours' notice.

13. Within one week of the Final Private Business Meeting, a joint Council meeting will be held consisting of all the Officers and Council of each relevant Session.
14. If an Officer or Ordinary Member of Council shall absent himself from two consecutive Private Business, Public Business, or Council Meetings of the Society without leave of absence or reasonable excuse, the Registrar shall give notice, and the President may, if no reasonable excuse received and allowed, declare the position vacant subject to receipt of the said excuse within one week, and in the absence of the said excuse after that week, shall proceed to elect a new Officer or Ordinary Member of Council.

XIV The Meetings of the Society

1. Eleven members shall form the Quorum.

Private Business

2. The order of business on the night of an ordinary meeting shall be a Private Business Meeting.
3. The Order of Private Business shall be as follows:
 1. Minutes;
 2. Fines;
 3. Reports;
 4. Questions;
 5. Motions on Notice;
 6. Motions not on Notice;
 7. General Business.
4. The President may suspend the proceedings of Private Business at any time so that Public Business may proceed, at the end of which Private Business will be re-convened.
5. The Minutes shall be read by the Registrar and signed by the President if there are no objections or alterations.
6. The Fines shall be read by the Treasurer and can be challenged upon first reading. The challenger shall stand up and say "Challenge, Mr. (or Madam) President". Fines may also be appealed by means of privileged motion no. 9 on or before the next Private Business Meeting.

7. Reports shall be read by the chair of the sub-committee responsible for the report. The report is then included into the records of the Society, or put on notice and voted on at the following Private Business Meeting. Such a vote is binding.
8. At Question Time, the members shall address their questions as either “May I ask you, Mr. (or Madam) President ...?” or “May I ask the (Officer) through you, Mr. (or Madam) President ...?”, mentioning the relevant Officer.
9. Officers shall reply to questions briefly and in the form “Mr. (or Madam) President, in answer to the question just asked by Mr. (or Madam) X ...”
10. No more than ten minutes shall be given over to Question Time. The Librarian shall inform the President when ten minutes have elapsed so that the Society may immediately move on to other business.
11. Motions on notice shall be discussed by the proposers and opposers and a vote is taken. The vote is binding.
12. Motions not on notice shall be proposed and seconded and, if accepted, are discussed at the next Private Business Meeting.
13. At General Business, nominations, privileged motions and any other business not fitting into any of the above categories shall be raised.
14. The following shall be deemed privileged motions, which may be proposed and seconded at any time without previous notice:
 1. That the meeting be adjourned.
 2. That Standing Orders be raised.
 3. That a speaker X be or be not heard.
 4. That leave of absence be granted to an Officer.
 5. That the Chair do leave the chair and that X do take it.
 6. That a vote of thanks, congratulations, regret or sympathy be passed.
 7. That the motion be amended to read as follows ...
 8. That a sub-committee of (list of people) be established to ...
 9. That the fines of X be remitted.
 10. That the question be now put.
 11. That the motion before the House be withdrawn.
 12. That an Officer or Member of Council be censured for failing in his duties under the laws and traditions of the Society.

13. That the speech of X do not stand as a speech for the purpose of the speech requirements for Society elections.
14. That a member of the Society be suspended for (period of time) for (reason).
15. That a rejected motion be permitted to be re-introduced.

Privileged motions nos. 1, 2, 11 and 15 shall require a super-majority of two-thirds of voters to assent in order to pass.

15. If a member of any sub-committee appointed under privileged motion no. 7 should resign, the sub-committee may elect a replacement.
16. Points of Order can be made at any time and take precedence except during the minutes, when a motion is being proposed or seconded, or when the President is already ruling on a point of order. Points of Order are made by a member standing, placing his hand on his head, and saying "On a Point of Order, Mr. (or Madam) President".
17. All motions, including privileged motions, must be signed by the proposer and the seconder, dated correctly, and delivered to the President in order to be valid.
18. If a member who has given notice of motion or its seconder be not present, the motion on notice will lapse.
19. Motions involving a change to the Laws of the Society shall require a super-majority of two-thirds of voters to assent in order to pass.
20. Any alteration to the Laws of the Society shall come into force immediately on passing of the altering motion on notice.
21. When making any speech, the member shall address the House with the words "Mr. (or Madam) President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the University Philosophical Society, Ladies and Gentlemen."
22. The President shall be the sole interpreter of the Laws and judge of order for the night. The President shall have the power to fine any member present for any act which is in direct and substantial interference with the order of the meeting, and may fine any Officer or member of Council for neglect or breach of their duty or customs of the Society. These fines are subject to repeal as contained elsewhere in the Laws.
23. The President may, having fined a member three times for a stated reason, ask the member to leave and on his refusal he may appoint a Vice-Presidential sub-committee by means of privileged motion no. 8 to remove the offending member.

24. The President may reject any privileged motion or motion not on notice if he deem it to be frivolous and improper.
25. Reports which are binding to the Society shall be put on notice at the same meeting at which they are read and voted on at the next Private Business Meeting.
26. The Officers' Conduct Report shall, in exception to the previous rule, be put on notice at the first Private Business Meeting of the next Session.
27. No sub-committee shall continue to act beyond the end of the Session for which it is appointed, unless re-elected.
28. The nominations to Offices or Seats on Council for all elections shall be taken in General Business. This shall be announced at the previous Private Business Meeting. They shall take the form "We hereby propose Mr. (or Madam) X for the office of X for the Xth Session" (or "remainder of the Xth Session" in the case of by-elections).
29. No report of a sub-committee may be read before the house unless signed by two-thirds of the members of that sub-committee.
30. If a motion is unopposed, it is passed by acclaim, but the proposer may exercise her right to speak on the motion in any case.
31. The President, upon learning that no quorum is present, shall have the power to wait five minutes to allow a quorum to be formed. The Chair shall have the power to keep order until he declares the meeting to be adjourned, notwithstanding there may not be a quorum for other business. Any fine so imposed shall be recorded in the minutes.

Public Business

32. The Order of Public Business may be any one of the following:
 1. A debate;
 2. A paper reading meeting;
 3. A general public speaking meeting, or a public interview.
33. If a majority of the Council should vote to hold another type of meeting, they may do so, but this meeting will not be an ordinary meeting for the Minutes and will not count as an ordinary meeting for the purposes of the Fundamental Regulations.
34. Speaking on the essay shall take the form of a Vote of Thanks to the Essayist. A division is then taken on the subject of the essay.

35. For a debate meeting, the standard parliamentary debating format shall be used, unless standing orders be suspended by means of privileged motion no. 2. A division is taken at the end of a meeting.
36. At any meetings of the Society, the President may limit the duration of the speeches. In general, no speaker may speak for more than ten minutes, except a Distinguished Guest.
37. In the case of a general public speaking meeting, the meeting shall take the form of speeches on a given topic. No division shall be taken.
38. Two amendments cannot be before the meeting at the same time.
39. When an amendment has been adopted, the question as amended shall be treated as a substantive question, and shall be subject to further amendments.
40. No member may speak twice on the same motion, and a member who has spoken on a motion cannot subsequently propose, but may second or speak to, an amendment thereto.
41. No voting on any motion or amendment shall take place until such motion or amendment be put from the chair. If a division be called by any member after the question has been put from the chair, the Society shall divide, and tellers be appointed immediately. In case of an equal division, the Chair shall have the casting vote.
42. When a member rises to speak, she shall address the chair with the address “(Mr. (or Madam) Chair,) Mr. (or Madam) President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the University Philosophical Society, Ladies and Gentlemen.”
43. The Chair, upon learning that no quorum is present, shall have the power to wait five minutes to allow a quorum to be formed. The President shall have the power to keep order until he declares the meeting to adjourned, notwithstanding there may not be quorum for other business.
44. At the end of the Session, all motions not disposed of shall lapse.
45. The suspension of standing orders must be for a purpose and permits:
 1. That no points of information be taken;
 2. An alteration or delay in the order of business;
 3. That a member be reheard;
 4. That a second paper be delivered.

46. The suspension of standing orders shall last only until its purpose has been accomplished, when standing orders shall be declared resumed. On the resumption of standing orders, business shall be resumed at the point reached before this suspension, but omitting such matters or business as have been transacted during the suspension. During the suspension of standing orders for one given purpose, standing orders may, at the discretion of the Chairman and subject to privileged motion no. 2, be further suspended for another given purpose in addition, in the same manner as if standing orders were not suspended.
47. Any person in attendance at Public Business who is not a member may nonetheless speak on a motion if the Chair should choose to recognise her.
48. The Order of Proceedings at the Opening Meeting of each Session shall be as follows:
 1. The Chair having been taken, the Minutes of the last Opening Meeting shall be read by the Registrar and, if accepted, signed by the Chairman.
 2. The Awards of the Society shall be presented to the successful candidates by the Chairman.
 3. The President shall deliver his address.
 4. The following resolutions shall be proposed and seconded:
 - i. "That the Thanks of the University Philosophical Society are due to the President for his address."
 - ii. "That the University Philosophical Society is worthy of the support of the students of this University."
 - iii. "That the Chair do leave the chair and the President do take it."
 - iv. "That the Thanks of the Society are due to the Chair and the Distinguished Guests who have honoured it with their presence this evening."

XV Medals and Prizes of the Society

Composition

1. Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 refer only to papers or essays delivered by student members of the Society at Public Business Meetings of the Society.
2. At the end of the Session, the Society shall award a Gold or Silver Medal or Marked Thanks in Composition to the author of the best essay.

3. An essay which has once obtained an award cannot again be sent at any subsequent competition for awards in connection with the Society.
4. The Council shall determine the best essay of the Session after seeking the advice of members.
5. Prior to the Final Private Business Meeting of the Session, the Council shall solicit the advice of Honorary Members to determine which of the awards of the Society is merited by the quality of the essay.

Oratory

6. At the end of the Session, the Society may award a Gold or Silver Medal or Marked Thanks in Oratory to each of the best speakers.
7. The Council shall determine the best speakers of the Session after seeking the advice of members.
8. The Council shall determine which of the awards of the Society is merited by the quality of oratory of each speaker who is considered.

Rules and Other Awards

9. No member shall obtain a particular Gold Medal more than once, or a particular Silver Medal more than once.
10. The Society may create and confer other awards as it sees fit, including a Maiden Speaker's Award.
11. All awards announced at the Final Private Business Meeting will be distributed at the Opening Meeting of the following Session.