

STANDING ORDERS GOVERNING ACADEMIC SOCIETIES

1. Interpretation

1.1 These Standing Orders shall be read in conjunction with the Constitution, Bye-Laws and the relevant Standing Orders of University of Lincoln Students' Union and shall be interpreted accordingly.

2. Definitions

2.1 An Academic Society will be defined as a group of students with a common interest in an Academic subject who will meet and implement activities to further their group's interests.

2.2 The Trustees will have ultimate responsibility for defining student groups as either Sports Clubs, Societies or Academic Societies or otherwise.

3. Remit

3.1 The Union through its staff, officers and Trustees will:

3.1.1 encourage, provide and support activities as appropriate to meet the needs of Students.

3.1.2 manage, guide and aid development of Academic Societies.

3.1.3 work with the University and relevant external bodies, to develop opportunities, Academic Societies and recreational events.

3.1.4 provide activities to encourage community involvement through our members.

3.1.5 provide support for new Academic Societies.

3.1.6 through Academic Societies activities, provide the opportunity and facilities to encourage social and personal development.

3.1.7 co-ordinate and administer Academic Societies activities including the supervision of financial matters relating to Academic Societies.

3.1.8 develop opportunities and recognition for those volunteering through Academic Societies.

4. Setting up a New Academic Society

4.1 To set up a new Academic Society, members must submit an application stipulating all Committee Members names and their positions for a new Academic Society via the

Student Dashboard in accordance with their Constitution. At least one (1) core Committee Member must be enrolled within their first or second year at the University.

4.2 Committee Members which all Academic Societies must have in position to be ratified are defined and hereafter as;

President; Is responsible for the running of the Academic Society in line with their constitution, providing guidance and support to fellow Committee Members and the membership of the Academic Society.

Vice President; Is responsible for supporting the President in ensuring that the Academic Society runs effectively.

Treasurer; Is responsible for all financial transactions of the Academic Society, including keeping accurate and update financial information of the Academic Society.

An Academic Society can elect optional Committee Members as defined within their constitution.

4.3 All applications for new Academic Society will be approved at the next Executive Committee via the Vice President Activities upon submission and will be notified of its approval or rejection in writing within 48 hours of the Executive Committee convening.

4.4 New Academic Societies have one month to obtain fifteen (15) members and all Committee Members must attend their compulsory training delivered by the Students' Union within two months of being elected or the Academic Society being formed.

4.5 All core positions as defined as President, Vice President and Treasurer must complete all compulsory training to gain access to the Student Dashboard.

4.6 Other role defined in the Societies Constitution will be required to complete specific training and will not be granted access to the Student Dashboard until completion.

4.7 The President and the Treasurer must complete finance training before access is given to the relevant section of the Members Dashboard and funds can be spent.

4.8 In the event that the new Academic Societies does not comply with point 4.4, the Academic Society will be disbanded and all assets and money will be absorbed into the Union funds. 4.8 Any new Society applications received after the 31st January will be deferred until the first Executive Committee in June for ratification. Following approval from this the Society will be set up ready to commence from the 1st July.

5. Membership

5.1 Membership of all Academic Societies will be open to all Students and members (including associate, temporary and life members), in accordance with the Education Act 1994. All Academic Societies will define their own membership in accordance with the Union's and University's Equal Opportunities policies.

5.2 Academic Society committee positions can only be held by Full Student members of the Students' Union (as determined by Bye Law 1) who are also members of that Academic Society.

- 5.3 Any dispute regarding membership of any Academic Society will be referred to the Activities Hub.
- 5.4 All members must agree to abide by the Activities Code of Conduct before becoming a member of an Academic Society.

6. Membership Fees

- 6.1 To be eligible to participate in activities of the affiliated Academic Societies, members must have paid the relevant Academic Society membership fees.
- 6.2 Members must have paid membership fees within one calendar month of the relevant Societies Fayre, at the latest or their membership shall terminate with immediate effect.
- 6.3 Membership fees will be set by individual Academic Societies and reflect the funding and developmental aims of the Academic Society, with no minimum annual fee.
- 6.4 Committees of Academic Societies will be expected to monitor the payment of membership fees, and spot checks will be performed throughout the year by Vice President Activities
- 6.5 Membership fee refunds will only be given within a cooling off period of seven (7) days from commencement of membership. Any membership refund requested after this period must have extenuating circumstances and will be given at the sole discretion of the Vice President Activities.

7. Budgets

- 7.1 Development Budgets will be awarded by the Trustees in accordance with policy documents relating to the provision of funds available for the Academic Societies in compliance with the Education Act 1994,
- 7.2 Academic Societies are not permitted to have their own bank accounts or keep funds. Any Academic Society found to have an external bank account will have its Academic Society Club status suspended and disciplinary action will be taken against the committee in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedures for Member(s), Committees, Societies and Sports Clubs.
- 7.3 All funds must be paid into the Union via the Students' Union reception. Members collecting fund on behalf of the Academic Society is strictly forbidden and disciplinary action will be taken against any members found to be handling money for the Academic Society.
- 7.4 Academic Societies and their committees will conduct themselves in accordance with the financial regulations of the Union in force from time to time.
- 7.5 Academic Societies need to consult in advance with the Activities Office before receiving donations or sponsorship awards. An Academic Society cannot enter into an agreement for sponsorship without the consent of the Vice President Activities and Chief Executive (on behalf of the Board of Trustees) of the Students' Union.

7.6 The Executive Committee are ultimately responsible for, and as a result, will approve overall spending for Academic Societies activities. Individual allocations from the Development Fund account will be ratified by the Activities Hub as set out above.

8. Disciplinary

8.1 Each Academic Society, team or member is accountable for their behaviour, whether collectively or individually (as appropriate in the circumstances).

8.2 Breach of conduct, policy or behaviour which may bring the University or Union into disrepute may result in disciplinary action against the team, the Committee members of the team, or individuals of the team.

8.3 Any Academic Society breaking Union policies, the Club's Constitution or these Standing Orders shall be subject to disciplinary action.

8.4 Disciplinary matters will be heard by the Union Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedures for Member(s), Committees, Societies and Sports Clubs.

8.5 Any committee member can be removed from their post in line with standing order 3001, should a proposal for a removal from post be passed by the committee for any of the reasons outlined in 3001.

9. Dissolution

9.1 Should an Academic Society reach a point where it is no longer able to carry out its aims and objectives, or not have a minimum of fifteen (15) members before the 1st November, the Academic Society will be dissolved and all assets and money will be held in escrow until the 30th June at which time if the Academic Society has not reformed with full membership then the Academic Society will be disbanded and funds and assets returned to Union funds.

10. Financial Arrangements

10.1 Financial Controls: The Academic Societies President and Treasurer are to control the funds of the Academic Society in accordance with the Students' Unions Financial Regulations and paragraph 4.6 of this document.

10.2 The Academic Societies account balances and transactions can be obtained and viewed via the Members Dashboard.

10.3 Academic Societies are strictly forbidden to setup or hold bank accounts for the Academic Society. It is against Charity law for this to occur. Any members or Academic Society found to be in possession of an independent bank account will face disciplinary sanctions.

11. Minutes

11.1 Minutes for all Academic Societies Committee meetings and all members' meetings must be taken, and copies submitted within ten (10) working days of the relevant meeting to academicsocieties@lincolnsu.com

12. Affiliation

12.1 Before an Academic Society affiliates to another body, approval must be sought from the Executive Committee through the Vice President Activities. Affiliation is subject to ratification by the Board of Trustees and the preceding All Students' Members meeting. For clarification, once the Executive committee have approved the affiliation, the Academic Society can proceed with affiliation. The Board of Trustees and an All Student Members meeting can overrule the affiliation and the Academic Society will have to disaffiliate at the next available opportunity.

EB May 2020

Passed at Executive Committee