**Logos Constitution**

*We as a collection of free citizens of many nations, in order to promote freedom of thought and speech within our countries, establish the society: Logos. We assert freedom, responsibility and reason to be vital in securing the health of nations across the globe. As the foreboding spectre of conformism looms ever closer, we commit ourselves to inquiry and exploration, rejecting submission and passivity. By promoting debate over silence and freedom over censorship, may our perspectives be challenged and our ignorance quashed.*

**Article 1: Adoption of the Constitution**

This society and its property shall be administered in accordance with this Constitution.

**Article 2: Society Name**

 The society’s name shall be: “Logos”.

**Article 3: Objectives**

1. To provide a forum for those of libertarian, conservative, classical liberal and
non-mainstream political opinion to express themselves.
2. To promote freedom of speech and thought.
3. To encourage thought provoking debate.
4. To act in the interest of society members.

**Article 4: Membership**

1. Membership is open only to natural persons and is non-transferable.
2. Membership is open to any student of the University of Southampton.
3. Membership will be granted to persons (who apply) only upon unanimous agreement of the President and the entire committee.
4. Membership shall consist of two categories
	1. Full: registered to the society and attends events regularly (at least five in one academic year).
	2. Visiting: not registered to the society and attends events from time to time.
5. Only Full Members are eligible to vote, to run for the Presidency, to be appointed to the committee, or to attend General Meetings.
6. If a Visiting Member wishes to apply for Full Membership, they must inform the President, outlining the reasons for their application.
7. As outlined in Article 6.3, the Secretary will maintain a register of members.
8. Any member may leave the society at any time for any reason.
	1. In this instance, the member must inform the President in writing, giving at least seven days notice.
	2. Upon leaving the society, the former member will cease to hold any position, must surrender any and all society property in their possession to a Full Member.
9. Membership may be terminated if:
	1. A member resigns as above.
	2. A member ceases to be qualified for their category of Membership.
	3. A member completes their university studies.
	4. The President sanctions the member in accordance with Article 9.

**Article 5: General Meetings**

1. Two types of General Meetings shall exist:
	1. Impromptu General Meeting (IGM).
		1. An IGM can be called by the President at any time.
		2. The membership may also request an IGM, if five or more Full Members inform the President in writing, who is bound to oblige the request within fourteen days of receiving notification.
		3. The President and the Secretary and the Treasurer must attend, in addition to any members that wish to attend.
	2. Annual General Meeting (AGM).
		1. One AGM must be held in each academic year.
		2. The meeting must be attended by the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and all Full Members.
		3. The election of a President will occur at the AGM.
		4. Amendments to the Constitution can only be voted on at an AGM.
2. Procedure
	1. All eligible members must be informed in advance of future General Meetings with as much notice as possible; minimum notice is as follows:
		1. At least two days for an IGM.
		2. At least two weeks for an AGM.
	2. A written agenda (however informal in nature) must be compiled before any General Meeting, including any matters that require a vote.
	3. The President will chair (or appoint a chair for) all General Meetings.
	4. All those present at meetings will be afforded the chance to speak without interruption.
	5. Minutes must be taken and communicated to all members.
		1. This should include the result of any votes.
		2. Minutes should be compiled in a spirit of transparency.
	6. If necessary and feasible, IGMs (only) can be conducted over a conference call, or utilising other similar methods of communication.
	7. Any member may propose a topic for discussion, by informing the President or a committee member at least two days before the meeting is due to take place.
3. Voting
	1. Only Full Members are eligible to vote.
	2. Voting will only take place during General Meetings.
	3. Absentee voting is illegal.
	4. Members present shall have one vote, they may not vote by proxy.
	5. Voting shall be a show of hands, counted by the chair.
	6. Voting items:
		1. Election of the President and committee.
		2. An amendment to the Constitution.
		3. Vote of no confidence (in either the President or a committee member).
	7. Election of the President and committee
		1. The candidate with the most votes shall become President or fill the respective committee role.
		2. In the event of a tie, the vote will be decided by a coin toss.
	8. Voting on amendments to the Constitution
		1. The quorum for an amendment vote will be 75% of all Full Members.
	9. Vote of no confidence (in either the President or a committee member)
		1. The quorum for a vote of no confidence in a committee member shall be 50% of all Full Members.
		2. The quorum for a vote of no confidence in the President shall be 75% of all Full Members.
		3. In the event of a no confidence motion passing, the individual holding the position in question must resign from office immediately. An election for any vacant position (only) must be held as soon as possible.

**Article 6: The committee**

1. The society shall be administered by a committee which must consist of the following positions, in order of seniority:
	1. The President.
	2. The Secretary.
	3. The Treasurer.
	4. Note: Any positions created by the President shall have chronological seniority; whichever position was created first shall have seniority over the next created position. This rule excludes the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer.
2. The President shall perform the following duties:
	1. To maintain the society’s strategic direction.
	2. To liaise with other society Presidents and the Students’ Union, when necessary.
	3. To convene meetings of the committee and maintain regular communication with its members.
	4. To approve or deny requests made by the membership and/or the committee.
	5. To pass judgement on incidences of unconstitutional activity and take subsequent action, as he or she sees fit.
	6. To delegate authority at his or her discretion.
3. The Secretary shall perform the following duties:
	1. To assume the position of the President in the event of incapacitation or resignation.
	2. To organise society meetings and events, in consultation with the President and the Treasurer.
	3. To provide timely and accurate advice/information to the President and the Treasurer at their request.
	4. To take reasonable measures to ensure the membership are informed about society events and meetings.
	5. To maintain an accurate record of the contact details and names of current members.
4. The Treasurer shall perform the following duties:
	1. To manage and oversee any financial assets held in the name of the society.
	2. To facilitate society meetings and events by utilising the society’s financial assets when necessary, in consultation and agreement with the President and the Secretary.
	3. To provide timely and accurate advice/information to the President and the Secretary at their request, especially in reference to financial matters.
	4. To manage all Students’ Union funding requests.
5. Additional committee positions may be created and abolished at the discretion of the President.
6. A committee member may resign their position at any time, at which point they will cease to hold that position.
	1. At least seven days written notice must be provided to the next most senior committee member before the resignation comes into effect.
	2. A replacement committee member will then be elected according to Article 7.3.
7. Committee meetings
	1. Any member of the committee may call a meeting of all committee members.
	2. The President will chair all committee meetings.
	3. All committee members must attend.
	4. Minutes can be taken at the discretion of the President.
	5. Voting
		1. Each committee member shall have one vote.
		2. In the event of a tie, the President will cast an additional deciding vote.
		3. At least three committee members must be present for the vote to be valid.
		4. The committee is expected to discuss matters and come to a mutual agreement, rather than to vote on every minute issue. Hence the voting mechanism should be used sparingly, if at all.
	6. The committee members will regulate meetings as they see fit, once all of the above requirements have been met.
	7. Where feasible these meetings can take place on a conference call or via other similar methods of communication.

**Article 7:** **Election of the President and appointment of the committee**

1. The President has a term limit of one calendar year from the day they are elected.
	1. Full Members are eligible to run for President if:
		1. They have at least one year of their studies remaining.
		2. They have not already been elected.
		3. Note: committee members who have served as President are eligible to run for the Presidency, if they have assumed the Presidency as a result of resignation or incapacitation.
2. The President will be elected at the AGM as outlined in Article 5.
	1. Those Full Members eligible to run for President, must declare their intent to run for the Presidency at least two weeks before the AGM. The sitting President and committee must be informed in writing.
	2. These candidates will be vetted by the committee in a committee meeting, who will eliminate all but two candidates.
	3. The remaining two candidates will then be proposed to the AGM for a vote.
	4. The vote will take place according to Article 5.3(g).
	5. As soon as the vote has taken place, the President-elect shall assume office.
3. The membership will then elect the Secretary and the Treasurer as required.
	1. Any Full Member is eligible for election, unless they have already served two years as a committee member (regardless of role).
	2. The membership must be informed of the election of the remaining committee members, in addition to the creation of new roles (as described in Article 6.5).
	3. Newly elected committee members will take office as soon as the membership has voted.
4. As soon as the new President has been elected, the incumbent will cease to hold the office of the Presidency.
	1. As such, when the new committee members are elected, the incumbents will also cease to hold those positions.
5. No committee member may serve for more than two calendar years from the date of their appointment or election.

**Article 8: Bill of Ethics**

1. Logos is neither a debating society nor a political movement or party. Its purpose is unique and original, as outlined in Article 3. Moving too far in either direction, of political action or of mainstream debating, would mean that Logos would lose its special status. In keeping with this everlasting tradition, it is surely forbidden for any member of the society to:
	1. Be a committee member (regardless of role) *and* a committee member of any political society.
	2. Be a committee member *and* a member of any student or university based political society or organisation.
	3. Campaign on behalf of or in the name of Logos. Such activity is absolutely unacceptable and it is recommended that guilty parties are immediately dismissed from the society.
2. Any political campaigning or activism, in the name of Logos, on behalf of Logos, in reference to Logos; is utterly prohibited.
	1. At no point shall any committee member, regardless of position or seniority, propose or organise political action or activism.
	2. The use of society communication channels; including but not limited to: the Logos email account and its contacts, social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter or others) for organising or promoting political activism, action or campaigning, is strictly prohibited.
3. No member of the society, regardless of position, shall be permitted to act in a manner which advances their own self-interest, while utilising any property or networks of the society: including social media accounts and financial assets.
	1. Any conflict of interest must be declared.
	2. If a conflict of interest becomes apparent and has been declared, the individual(s) may proceed with their action, so long as the committee consents to it.
	3. Any use of financial assets (of any kind) held in the society’s name, for a purpose other than for the realisation of the society’s objectives set out in Article 3, is strictly prohibited. If this occurs, it is recommended that the member in question is immediately removed from the society.
	4. The use of the society’s name, or association with the society in order to advance personal self-interest, is strictly forbidden. If this occurs, it is recommended that the member in question is immediately removed from the society.
4. Freedom of speech is inviolable. The right of any person regardless of opinion, to express themselves, shall not be infringed.
	1. Direct and open, immediate calls to violence are prohibited.
5. All society members are expected to behave in a respectful and courteous manner to all persons (whether members of the society or not).
	1. Physical violence with an intent to cause harm and/or pain, is forbidden. Such actions will result in immediate disciplinary action and guilty parties should be removed from the society.
	2. Objectively offensive remarks directed towards society members, especially in reference to personal characteristics or circumstances, are illegal.
	3. All members must have their voice heard. If a member wishes to make a point, they must be allowed to do so uninterrupted. Continued and deliberate interruption will not be tolerated.
	4. The appointed chair of said presentation/topic of discussion is responsible for dictating discourse in the interest of open and balanced dialogue. This entails setting a time limit for both those presenting and those responding, within reason and unspoken agreement among participators.
6. Deliberately undermining the society or preventing its members from achieving the objectives set out in Article 3, is strictly forbidden.
7. If any member engages in activity prohibited in this Bill of Ethics, they may be sanctioned according to Article 9.

**Article 9: Unconstitutional activity**

1. This article describes the actions that may be taken against a member if they act in a manner contrary to the Constitution.
2. If unconstitutional activity is reported, the President must take reasonable measures to investigate, in order to establish the specificity and depth of such activity.
	1. Based upon this investigation, the President may decide to take action against those involved.
	2. The President must consult the committee before any action is taken.
3. The President has the authority to sanction the member in question in the following ways:
	1. Writing an official warning to the member. If any further illegal activity takes place, the member must be receive additional sanction.
	2. Suspension: forbidding the member to attend any number of society events and/or General Meetings.
	3. Dismissal: removing the member from any committee position that they may hold.
	4. Removal: releasing the member from the society and preventing them from attending any future activities organised by the society.
4. A suspect member may apply to the Student’s Union for appeal.

**Article 10: Amendment to the Constitution**

1. Amendments to the Constitution may be approved provided that:
	1. They do not breach the existing rules stated in the Bill of Ethics.
	2. The Students’ Union is informed of the amendment within seven days and subsequently approves the measure.

**Article 11: Dissolution**

1. If at an AGM the membership agrees to dissolve the society, the following provisions must be followed:
	1. The same voting rules for an amendment to the Constitution must be followed.
	2. All members must be informed of the vote at the earliest possible opportunity.
2. The committee shall seek guidance from the Students’ Union as to how the society shall be dissolved.
3. The exact means of dissolving the society shall be at the discretion of the President and the committee.
4. Any property or monies in possession of the society, which is in fact the property of another person(s) or organisation(s), must be returned to its legal owner. This includes items on loan from individuals or the Students’ Union for example.
5. All electronic data and records held by the society must be disposed of appropriately.

**Article 12: Declaration**

*The following persons adopted this Constitution, thereby founding Logos:*

 Date:

 President:

 Secretary:

*The Students’ Union approved this Constitution:*

 Date:

 Student Officer: