Southampton University Labour Society Constitution

# 1, **Society Name, Type and Purpose**

1.1. The society shall be called Southampton University Labour Society (or SULS). In some third-party documentation, it is referred to as Southampton University Labour Students or Southampton University Labour Club and it shall be understood that these and similar such titles refer to SULS.

1.2. SULS is a political society in SUSU's categorisation of societies.

1.3. SULS exists to allow Labour members and supporters at the University of Southampton to meet one another, to campaign on Labour issues and to take part in political discussion.

# 2. **Membership**

2.1. Membership of SULS is open to any student at the University of Southampton and, only in the event that there is no sister society at Southampton Solent, students at Southampton Solent University. It should be noted that the society is a 'broad church' in relation to the different perspectives of Labour members and supporters; discrimination against potential or existing members for difference of opinion shall not be tolerated It should be noted that members should hold left wing views. Members of SULS do not necessarily have to be members of the

Labour Party but must comply with the Conditions of

Membership section 4 (Exclusions) from the Membership Rules of the Labour Party as made clear in Chapter 2 of the Party Rule Book (available online).

# 3. **Committee**

3.1. The SULS Committee shall be comprised of:

1. President (or Chair)

The President shall lead the committee, be ultimately responsible for SULS' campaigns and events and be SULS' primary representative. They shall be responsible for maintaining the party's close relationship with the Southampton and Romsey Labour Party. They shall work with the Party's Youth and Student Officer to maximise SULS' contribution to the Southampton and Romsey Labour Party's operation. The President shall also ensure a reasonable number of meetings and events shall be held per semester to remain engaged with members. In the instance of a tied committee vote, the President shall make the casting vote.

1. Vice-President (or Vice-Chair)

The Vice-President shall assist the President in their duties and deal with any unnecessary SUSU bureaucracy if no other member of the committee is forthcoming in their desire to do this. They shall deputise for the President when appropriate.

1. Secretary

The Secretary shall record the outcomes of committee meetings and assist the President and Vice-President in their duties. They shall deputise for the Vice-President when appropriate.

1. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the maintenance of SULS' finances and bank account and shall ensure the timely submission of SUSU funding applications as necessary.

1. Membership and Publicity Officer

The Membership and Publicity Officer shall maintain SULS' communications, deal with membership issues and strive to increase both membership of SULS, and membership of the Labour Party within SULS. Further, the Officer shall maintain alf social media and email publicity (with regular updates to each), posting both about relevant SULS events and making members aware of local party activities.

1. Events and Campaigns Officer

The Events and Campaigns Officer shall ensure that SULS holds an array of talks by guest speakers, debates and campaigns as well as other events, throughout the year. They shall coordinate campaigning for local and general elections in the city of Southampton.

1. Social Secretary

The Social Secretary shall organise SULS' social events.

1. Liberation Officer

The Liberation Officer shall be responsible for promoting diversity and representation within SULS and ensuring that SULS is a tolerant and indiscriminatory environment. Further, they shall endeavour to foster close relationships with university organisations that represent Liberation groups and facilitate the building of Liberation caucuses.

Three Members without Portfolio

Members without Portfolio shall be full members of the committee and assist and deputise for other members as necessary.

* 1. Committee members are obliged to attend the majority of SULS events and give the committee notice in the case of their absence.
  2. Binding committee votes are subject to a majority quorum (50%+1) of all committee members.
  3. Newly elected committee members' terms shall commence immediately after the adjournment of the AGM, EGM or WCE meeting at which they are elected.
  4. Following elections, outgoing committee members shall ensure that their successor is fully informed of their role's responsibilities and ongoing commitments.

# 4. **Meetings**

4.1. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

1. Circumstances permitting, the AGM shall take place towards the end of the Spring Term (before the Easter break)
2. Notice of the AGM shall be issued at least 14 days in advance of the meeting.
3. The AGM shall be chaired by the most senior member of the outgoing committee not standing for election in the AGM. They shall be assisted by the second-most senior member of the outgoing committee not standing for election and both shall return the election if necessary.
4. The outgoing President shall deliver the President's report of the activities of SULS over the previous year. They shall arrange for any other relevant presentations to be made by the other members of the committee, as well as relevant people from outside SULS.
5. The positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary,

Treasurer, Membership and Publicity Officer, Events Officer, Social Secretary and Liberation Officer shall be elected at the AGM. Any Member without Portfolio positions left unfilled at this meeting will be by-elected.

1. Positions are elected using the Alternative Vote (AV) method with no proxy votes. Only members present and not returning the election may vote. Re-Open Nominations (RON) shall be an option on the ballot.
2. Positions shall be elected one at a time in the order,

President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer,

Membership and Publicity Officer, Events Officer, Social Secretary, Liberation Officer and then Members without Portfolio (if unfilled).

1. Nominations for each role shall be accepted until the beginning of the election of that role. The member chairing the AGM shall ask for any final nominations before proceeding to start the process.
2. Each candidate shall offer a short speech of their suitability for the role.
3. Voting shall then take place by secret ballot.
4. Any Other Business may be debated and voted on, at the discretion of the members chairing the meeting.

4.2. Winter Committee Elections (WCE)

a. Circumstances permitting, the WCE shall take place towards the end of the Autumn Term (before the

Christmas break) b, The WCE shall allow new members to become more involved in SULS at an early stage.

* + 1. Notice of the WCE shall be issued at least 7 days in advance of the meeting.
    2. Three Members without Portfolio shall be elected at the WCE. The WCE shall also be the time to perform any byelections of the other six committee roles that are necessary.
    3. Three Members without Portfolio shall be elected all at once using the Single Transferable Vote (STV) method.
    4. Otherwise, the election shall proceed as specified in Section a, above.

4.3. Emergency General Meeting (EGM)

* + 1. Any member of SULS can call for a Vote of No Confidence (VoNC) in a committee member if they believe one or multiple members to have broken constitutional rule.
    2. VoNC must result in a supermajority of at least two thirds (2/3) to remove the standing committee member and trigger an EGM. The minimum number of people required for a VoNC is six.
    3. The EGM will take place with the same specifications as the Spring Elections (AGM) as necessary to the positions up for election.
    4. An EGM may be called by the committee to ratify constitutional amendments or to by-elect committee positions if it will adversely affect SULS for them to remain unfilled.

# 5. **Finances**

5.1. SULS' finance shall not be managed in a way that will cause SUSU to take any kind of action.

# 6. **Affiliation**

6.1. SULS is currently affiliated to the Southampton and Romsey Labour Party and SUSU- Affiliation to other organisations may be decided upon by the committee.

## 7. **Amendments to the Constitution**

7.1. The committee may draft changes to the constitution, which must be ratified at either the AGM, Winter Committee Elections or an EGM.

The above document is the approved constitution of the Southampton University Labour Society.

