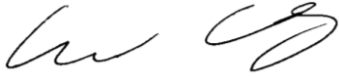


**Southampton University Labour Society Constitution**

Herein lies, within this document, the Constitution of Southampton University's Labour Society, adopted through membership approval, in the Winter General Meeting, on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

**Signatures of the adopting committee:**



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Lawrence Coomber  
(President)

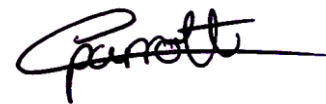


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Thomas Apsey  
(Vice-President and ECLPLO)

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Jack Sutherland  
(Secretary)



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Charlie Parrott  
(Treasurer)

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Helena Avis  
(Social Secretary)



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Kirsten McFarlane  
(Social Secretary)

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Issi Evans  
(Welfare Officer)

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Ceri Wilkins  
(Media Secretary)

---

Alana Yelzhassova  
(Member Without Portfolio)

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Kojo Donkor  
(Member Without Portfolio)



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Robbie Wiltshire  
(Constitution Author and Committee Advisor)

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**Definitions of terms:**

SULS= Southampton University Labour Society

SUSU= Southampton University Students Union

CM= Committee member

WM= Weekly meeting (the weekly society meetings with all members)

**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.
- 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.
- 2.2. The society is a 'broad church' in relation to the different perspectives of Labour members and supporters- as such members of the society should hold left-wing views. Discrimination against potential or existing members for difference of opinion, that is within the bounds of the society conduct policy, shall not be tolerated.
- 2.3 Members of SULS do not have to be members of the Labour Party but must comply with the rules laid out in this document.
- 2.4 SULS believes that access to political education, participation, and activism should be open to everyone. As such, membership to the society shall remain free to every member of SUSU. In ticketed events and socials, members may be asked to pay a fee for a ticket, or to bring their own supplies. However, the society should always look to make events as cheap as possible for its members.

### 3. Committee

3.1. The SULLS Committee shall be comprised of:

a. President

The President shall lead the committee, be ultimately responsible for SULLS' campaigns and events and be SULLS' 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 SULLS' contribution to the Southampton and Romsey Labour Party's operation. The President will chair committee meetings and ensure a reasonable number of meetings and events shall be held per semester to remain engaged with members.

b. Vice-President

The Vice-President shall assist the President in their duties.

The Vice-President shall deputise for the President when appropriate.

This position will be elected from the committee members and as such will be elected last.

c. Secretary

The Secretary shall record the outcomes of committee meetings, complete general administrative tasks, complete the room bookings for meetings or events and conduct voting on society proposals. They will be responsible for chairing weekly meetings.

The Secretary shall deputise for the Vice-President when appropriate.

d. Treasurer

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

e. Media Secretary

The Media secretary shall maintain SULLS's communications.

Further, the Officer shall maintain all social media and email publicity (with regular updates to each), posting both about relevant SULLS events and making members aware of local party activities.

f. Events, Campaigns, and Labour Party Liaison Officer (ECLPLO)

The Events and Labour Party Liaison Officer shall ensure that SULLS holds an array of talks by guest speakers, campaigns, and other events, outside the purview of the social secretary, throughout the year. They shall coordinate campaigning for local and general elections in the city of Southampton, and as such will maintain a link to members of the local Labour party.

g. Two Social Secretaries

The Social Secretaries shall organise SULS' social events. As well as representing the society when negotiating society discounts or bookings with local businesses or other societies, for planned events.

#### h. Welfare Officer

The Welfare Officer shall be responsible for promoting diversity and representation within SULS and ensuring that SULS is a tolerant and indiscriminatory environment.

They will be expected to work closely with the social secretary in order to ensure that members on socials are properly safeguarded as well as ensuring socials are inclusive to all

#### i. Two Members Without Portfolio

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

In order to ensure these positions are left open for those who are newer to the society those in their last year of their course are barred from running.

#### j. Former Committee Advisor

Former committee members may be included in communications with the current committee to provide advice, help and guidance where needed. They cannot have a binding vote and are not treated as a committee member, but rather an observing committee member. Any committee member can nominate any current society member or former member (provided they have served on committee), subject to a simple majority vote.

3.2 Seniority is as follows (starting with the most senior): President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. After this Media, Social, Welfare and ECLPLO are all considered to be the same level of seniority behind treasurer. Finally, the members without Portfolio are the lowest ranking elected members of the committee.

a. Seniority must not be misconstrued as anything other than a simple ranking for administrative means. Within committee all people and voices are to be respected equally.

3.3 Committee members are obliged to attend the majority of SULS events and give the committee notice in the case of their absence.

3.4 Newly elected committee members' terms shall commence immediately after the adjournment of the AGM, EGM or WGM meeting at which they are elected.

3.5 Following elections, outgoing committee members shall ensure that their successor is fully informed of their role's responsibilities and ongoing commitments.

3.6.1 Committee meetings should be held regularly and can be requested by any committee member with portfolio, in the instance that the committee holds a vote on a contested issue in committee, each CM has one vote regardless of how many committees positions they hold.

3.6.2 The President Chairs Committee Meetings.

3.6.3 The president has the deciding vote in the result of a tie in committee votes.

3.6.4 Committee meetings are largely self-regulating, however the general format is: Chair introduces why committee has been convened; committee members speak their mind on the issue; vote is taken on how to proceed with the issue and results noted (Follow 3.5.5 and 3.6.6 for future steps); chair asks if there are any other issues for committee to be raised; if there is the format repeats; meeting adjourns if not.

3.6.5 In the instance that an issue raised in committee does not meet a super-majority threshold but does meet 50%+1 (or 50% with the with the president's tie-breaking vote), the decision must then be approved by the society as a whole with a vote taken at the next weekly meeting.

3.6.6 In the instance that an issue raised in committee, reaches the threshold among CM's of a super majority (75%+1 of CM's) the society then can proceed with the course of action decided in committee. It does therefore not need to go to a general society vote but can if a 50%+1 (or 50% with the president's tie-breaking vote) majority of CM's decide it should.

#### **4. Meetings**

##### **4.1. Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

a. Circumstances permitting, the AGM shall take place towards the end of the Spring Term

b. Notice of the AGM shall be issued at least one month in advance, and a reminder 14 days in advance of the meeting.

c. The AGM shall be chaired by the most senior member of the committee. They shall be assisted by the second-most senior member of the committee, and both shall return the election if necessary.

d. 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.

e. The positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Media Secretary, Events, Campaigns, and Labour Party Liaison Officer, Social Secretaries and Welfare Officer shall be elected at the AGM. Any Member without Portfolio positions left unfilled at this meeting will be by-elected.

f. Positions are elected using the Alternative Vote (AV) method. Except for the two social secretaries (and Members without portfolio if two are to be by-elected) Re-Open Nominations (RON) shall be an option on all ballots.

g. Positions shall be elected one at a time in the order, President, Secretary, Treasurer, Media, Events Officer, Social Secretaries, Welfare Officer, and Vice-President

h. 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.

i. Each candidate shall offer a short speech of their suitability for the role. Voting shall then take place by secret ballot. Candidates may refuse to give a speech.

j. secret ballot procedure may be suspended only for uncontested positions provided that there are no objections raised after the suggestion of the presiding officer.

#### 4.2. Winter General Meeting (WGM)

a. Circumstances permitting, the WGM shall take place towards the end of the Autumn Term (before the Christmas break)

b. The WGM is intended to allow newer members to become more involved in SALS at an early stage.

c. Notice of the WGM shall be issued at least 14 days in advance of the meeting.

d. The WGM shall also be the time to perform any byelections of the other six committee roles that are necessary.

e. Two Members without Portfolio shall be elected all at once using the Single Transferable Vote (STV) method.

#### 4.3. Emergency General Meeting (EGM)

a. Any member of SALS can call for a Vote of No Confidence (VoNC) in a committee member if they believe one or multiple members to have egregiously broken constitutional rule or have fallen short of their committee role.

b. The member calling for the VoNC shall present their case, followed by the defence statement by the committee member.

c. Members, after hearing these arguments, shall then vote on whether to proceed to debate on the removal of the committee member with a simple majority required to proceed.

d. if this passes, the floor is then opened to debate by members in the style of a weekly meeting, once debate has reached its natural end a no confidence vote is held.

b. A no confidence vote 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 vote is 12.

c. The EGM will take place with the same specifications as the Spring Elections (AGM) as necessary to the positions up for election.

d. An EGM may be called by the committee to ratify constitutional amendments or to by-elect committee positions if it will adversely affect SALS for them to remain unfilled.

## **5. Disciplinary procedure**

5.1. All disciplinary procedure shall take place according to the standards set by SUSU

## **6. Finances**

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

## **7. Affiliation**

7.1. SALS is currently affiliated to SUSU.

7.2. Affiliation to other organisations may be decided upon by the committee and subject to a vote by the society.

## **8. Amendments to the Constitution**

8.1. The committee may draft changes to the constitution, which must be ratified at the AGM, Winter Committee Elections or an EGM. Through society vote with a 2/3rds majority.

8.2. After a constitutional change has been approved all current committee members must ratify the new constitution regardless of their personal vote.

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