

OU Politics, International Relations, and Policy Society

Constitution

Adopted at the Inaugural Meeting of the Open SU Politics, International Relations & Policy Society held on 19 October 2025

1	.1	<p>Name</p> <p>The Society shall be called the ‘Politics, International Relations, and Policy Society’. The name may be abbreviated to OU PIPS.</p>
2	<p>.1</p> <p>.2</p> <p>.3</p> <p>.4</p> <p>.5</p>	<p>Aims and Objectives</p> <p>We, the members of the Politics, International Relations, and Policy Society, unite to foster a vibrant, inclusive, and intellectually rigorous community. Our mission is to promote open dialogue, critical inquiry, and collaborative engagement on the pressing political and international issues.</p> <p>Communication & Engagement</p> <p>We champion open, respectful, and constructive communication across all levels of discourse. Through forums, debates, and events, we encourage active participation and the free exchange of ideas. We are committed to creating an inclusive environment where all individuals feel valued, heard, and empowered.</p> <p>Research & Education</p> <p>We are committed to evidence-based discussion and the pursuit of knowledge. Our society supports research, critical thinking, and educational initiatives that deepen understanding of political systems, international relations, and public policy.</p> <p>Internationalism & Global Understanding</p> <p>We embrace the interconnectedness of our world. By exploring commonalities and global challenges, we aim to cultivate empathy, cooperation, and informed global understanding.</p> <p>Debate & Dialogue with Honest & Non-Partisan Politics:</p> <p>We offer a platform that encourages diverse viewpoints and respectful disagreement, supporting democratic engagement. We commit to integrity, transparency, and balanced reflection on politics.</p>
3	<p>.1</p> <p>.2</p> <p>.3</p> <p>.4</p> <p>.5</p> <p>.6</p> <p>.7</p>	<p>Membership and Fees</p> <p>Full membership shall be open to all students, former students, and staff of the Open University.</p> <p>Associate membership shall be open to any other person.</p> <p>Family membership shall be open to the families of Full Members.</p> <p>Membership may be refused to persons who are opposed to the aims and objectives of the Society.</p> <p>Membership subscriptions will be payable from the start of your membership and then renewed at the beginning of the Society’s financial year.</p> <p>Prior to the beginning of the Society’s financial year the Committee will determine the level of subscriptions for the forthcoming year.</p> <p>The society financial year will run consecutive to the Open Student Union financial year.</p>
4		<p>Governance: General Meetings</p>

	.1	The governing body of the Society shall be the General Meeting, consisting of all members of the Society who choose to attend.
	.2	The quorum for General Meetings shall be 7 members of the Society's Full membership.
	.3	
		The affairs of the Society shall be administered between General Meetings by the Committee.
	.4	.i
		Notice of General Meetings shall be given to all Full and Associate members not less than 21 days in advance of such meetings.
		.ii
		Publication in a newsletter or other publication of the Society sent at an appropriate time to all Full and Associate members shall be regarded as notice.
		.ii
		Such notice shall include a full agenda of items to be discussed. If necessary, additional items may be added on an emergency basis. Notice of these additional items will be sent to members as soon as it's possible.
	.5	i
		.i
		Any Full member of the Society shall be entitled to speak and vote on any matter before a General Meeting.
		.ii
		Any Associate or Family member shall be entitled to speak on any matter before a General Meeting except where specifically excluded by the provisions of this constitution.
		.iii
		Associate or Family members are not entitled to vote at General Meetings.
	.6	
		Minutes of all General Meetings shall be kept by the Secretary and shall be available upon reasonable notice for inspection by a Full or Associate member.
	.7	
		There shall be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) which shall be called not less than 11 months and not more than 15 months after the immediate previous AGM.
	.8	
		Formal notification of an AGM must be sent to all Full and Associate members 6 weeks before the meeting to allow for nominations and motions to be sent and returned.
	.9	
		The Committee may call Ordinary General Meetings.
	.10	
		.i
		An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called by the Committee or at the request of not less than one-third of the Full members of the Society, made in writing to the Secretary.
		.ii
		Such requests shall specify the business for which the meeting is to be called.
		.iii
		Upon receipt of such request the Secretary shall within 1 calendar month give notice of the meeting to the Society.
		.iv
		The agenda for an EGM shall comprise only the business for which the meeting has been called.
5		Governance: Committee and Officers
	.1	The Committee will run the Society on a day-to-day basis between Annual Meetings.
	.2	The Committee of the Society shall consist of the Officers and not more than 5 ordinary Committee members.
	.3	All committee members, as well as co-opted members, shall have full entitlement to serve on sub-committees or working groups.
	.4	.i
		The quorum for Committee Meetings shall be 5 members of which at least 1 must be an officer.
		.ii
		The Officers of the Society shall be:
		President

		<p>Vice President – Events & Media</p> <p>Vice President – Membership & Finance</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Treasurer</p> <p>Media & Communications Officer(s)</p> <p>Newsletter Editor</p> <p>Events Officer(s)</p> <p>Policy Officer</p>
.5	.i	The Committee shall appoint additional Officers as required, including co-opting members of sub-committees or working groups.
	.ii	The Committee shall determine the roles and responsibilities of the Officers and additional Officers.
.6	.i	The Officers and ordinary committee members shall normally be elected at the AGM and shall hold office until the end of the succeeding AGM.
.7	.i	Only Full Members of the Society may nominate or be nominated for officer posts or ordinary Committee membership.
	.ii	Elections shall be by secret ballot using the transferable vote system.
	.iii	Nominations which have a proposer and seconder shall be accepted up to the time of the election.
	.iv	No member shall be eligible to be nominated for the same officer post for more than 3 consecutive years.
	.v	No member shall be eligible to be nominated for membership of the Committee (either as an officer or as an ordinary member) for a total of more than 6 years, whether consecutive or separate.
	.vi	Members are entitled to vote in person, or by proxy-vote, via the Secretary, informed in writing, should they be unable to attend meetings.
.8		The provisions of this clause may be waived in whole or in part for periods of one year at a time at the discretion of an AGM if insufficient eligible members are nominated for officer posts or Committee membership.
.9		In the event of any casual vacancies either of officers or ordinary Committee members, the Committee may in its absolute discretion:
		leave the vacancy unfilled
		co-opt from amongst the Full members of the Society
		call an ordinary General Meeting for the purpose of election.
.10		No more than 3 co-options shall be made between General Meetings.
6		Finance
.1		The Society's financial year shall run from the 1st August to the 31 st July
.2		

	.3		The Treasurer shall be responsible for the conduct of all financial matters and shall maintain the accounts of the Society.
	.4	.i	The accounts shall be available upon reasonable notice for inspection by any Full Member of the Society.
		.ii	The annual accounts of the Society shall be audited by two auditors who are not members of the Committee.
	.5		The audited accounts will then be presented to the AGM.
	.6		All expenditure shall be in connection with the Aims and Objectives of the Society.
	.7		The Treasurer shall have the authority to spend sums in total not exceeding £100 between Committee meetings.
	.8		The Committee may authorise the expenditure of sums up to £100 and not exceeding in £500 between General Meetings.
	.9		Any expenditure in excess of these sums must be authorised by a General Meeting.
	.10		The Treasurer and one other officer will conduct financial transactions on behalf of the Society
			The Treasurer will be supported by the Vice President – Membership & Finance, however, only the treasurer will hold the aforementioned rights.
7			Changes to the Constitution
	.1		This Constitution may be changed only by a resolution supported by at least two-thirds of the Full Members present and voting at an AGM of the Society. At the discretion of the committee, a general meeting may be called to change the constitution, with the appropriate time given so all members may attend.
	.2		All Full Members are entitled to vote by proxy in writing (through the Secretary) if they are unable to attend the meeting and wish to vote at the AGM.
	.3		Proposed changes to the Constitution must be notified in writing to the Secretary not less than 6 (six) weeks before the AGM at which they will be discussed.
	.4		The proposed changes in the Constitution shall be notified in writing to all Full members of the Society.
	.5		Notification of the proposed changes may be given by publication in a newsletter or other publications sent out to all Full members.
8			Dissolution
	.1		In the event of the Society being dissolved or wound up its assets shall be realised and any sum remaining after settlement of all outstanding liabilities shall be donated to the Open University Students Educational Trust (Ouset) or other charitable bodies whose aims are to assist students of the Open University.