Musical Society (GUMS) University Of Galway Constitution

Ratified on 03-10-2023 by the University Societies' Co-ordination Group
Adopted on the 04-07-2026

Article 1 Name of the Society

1.1 The name of the Society shall be Musical Society (GUMS), University Of Galway, hereinafter referred to as ‘the Society’.

1.3 The Society exists as a constituent part of the University and is therefore subject to all relevant University and University Societies Coordination Group (USCG) policies and rules.

Article 2 Alliances/Affiliations with External bodies.

Society is not aligned and/or affiliated with any external bodies

Article 3 Aims of the Society

1. The aims of the Society shall be to:
    - Produce entertaining and high quality shows for the student body and the community.
    - Keep the society active throughout the year as opposed to focusing solely on one main event.
    - Provide a comfortable place for college student to make friends.
    - Enable freedom of expression.
    - Constantly try to improve the society.
    - Develop the strengths of our members.
    - Maintain a committee that works together as a team to achieve these goals.

Article 4 Membership

4.1 All current students and current staff of the University shall be eligible to become full members of the Society.

4.1.1 Students and Staff may be prohibited from being a member where they have been subject to a USCG or University sanction prohibiting them from such.

4.2 Any eligible person shall become a member of the Society upon registering with the Society on any Societies' Day, or using the official societies registration, and payment of appropriate fee if applicable.

4.2.1 Should the Society charge a membership fee, full membership shall be granted upon payment of said fee. The fee shall be determined by the Committee annually, subject to the approval of the USCG. All such monies thus received must be lodged in full to the Society's bank account,

4.2.2 Should the Society be affiliated with a body that charges membership fee, members are not obliged to join the external body and therefore not obliged to pay the membership fee.

4.3 The Society may, subject to approval of the USCG, elect any member or alumni who they deem to have done great service for the Society to be an Honorary Life Member (HLM) in perpetuity of the Society.

4.3.1 An HLM is entitled entry to Society events and speaking rights at regular meetings, but is not entitled to a vote at regular meetings or Annual General Meeting (AGM)/Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), and is also not entitled to stand for a committee position or any other privileges open to full members.

4.3.2 If an HLM becomes eligible for full membership as per article 4.1 he/she shall have the same privileges as a full member.

Article 5 The Committee

5.1 A Committee shall conduct the business of the Society.

5.2 All members of the Committee shall be required to be full members of the Society.

5.3 All full members of the Society are eligible to be elected to the Committee except those explicitly disallowed hereinafter.

5.3.1 Full members are ineligible to stand for election and/or act as a member of the Committee where they have been subject to a USCG or University sanction prohibiting them from doing so.

5.4 The Committee shall consist of four Mandatory Committee Members as specified in Article 5.5, Additional Specified Committee Members specified in Article 5.6.2, and Ordinary Committee Members as specified in Article 5.7.

5.5 Mandatory Committee Members

The Core Positions are Auditor, Vice-Auditor, Treasurer and Secretary. The Committee must consist of at least these four positions.

5.5.1 Auditor

The Auditor shall have overall responsibility for the affairs of the Society. The Auditor shall chair all meetings of the Society, save where otherwise provided for in this Constitution. The Auditor has ultimate responsibility of ensuring that all Society requirements are fulfilled.

5.5.1.1 The Auditor in the cases of all votes shall be eligible to vote. In the case of a tie, the Auditor, along with the Vice-Auditor and the Secretary, may use their casting vote thereafter to decide the tie, except as provided for in Article 10.2. This may or may not be in accordance with their original vote.

5.5.2 Vice-Auditor

The Vice-Auditor must assist the Auditor in the general running of the Society. The Vice-Auditor shall assume the duties of the Auditor should the Auditor be absent or unable to fulfil their duties. The Vice-Auditor may fulfil any general role as defined by the Committee.

5.5.2.1 The Vice-Auditor in the cases of all votes shall be eligible to vote. In the case of a tie, the Vice-Auditor, along with the Auditor and the Secretary, may use their casting vote thereafter to decide the tie, except as provided for in Article 10.2. This may or may not be in accordance with their original vote.

5.5.3 Treasurer

The Treasurer will manage the financial affairs of the Society, in consultation with the Auditor and the Committee. The Treasurer will maintain the financial records of the Society. The Treasurer will prepare and present a Treasurer’s Report to the Society at the AGM. The Treasurer must prepare and present the End of Year Financial Report, and all accounts as required by the Societies Office, in accordance with the deadline stated by the Societies Office.

5.5.4 Secretary/OCM

The Secretary shall keep the non-financial records of the Society, and shall submit the End of Year Report. The Secretary is responsible for ensuring that all events are posted to the Societies Calendar. The Secretary shall manage the correspondence of the Society. The Secretary is also tasked with taking minutes off all Committee meetings, general meetings, AGM(s) and EGM(s) during their term of office.

5.5.4.1 The Secretary in the cases of all votes shall be eligible to vote. In the case of a tie, the Secretary, along with the Auditor and the Vice-Auditor, may use their casting vote thereafter to decide the tie, except as provided for in Article 10.2. This may or may not be in accordance with their original vote.

5.6 Society Specific Committee Members

The Society may create Society Specific Committee Members (SSCMs). SSCMs of the Society are listed and described in Article 5.6.2 and its sub-articles respectively.

Where the Society wishes to create, modify or remove an SSCM, it will be done by means of an amendment to Article 5.6.2 which shall also create, modify or remove a sub-article respectively to effect this change.

5.6.1 In cases hereinafter where it is explicitly stated that an SSCM may be co-opted, the Society may vote to allow the duties and title of an SSCM position to be co-opted by the Committee to a member of the Committee.

5.6.2 The Following SSCMs will be elected/appointed to the Committee: Public Relations Officer, PR Assistant, Schools Liaison Officer/OCM x2, Entertainments Officer, Events Assistant, Outreach Officer/OCM, New Members Liaison Officer/HSO, Consent and Welfare Officer, and First Year Representative.

5.6.2.1 Public Relations Officer (PRO)

The PRO is responsible for publicising the meetings and events of the Society. The PRO is responsible for any graphic design, editing and poster making for the society. It is the job of the PRO to organize the taking of photos for the society.

5.6.2.2 PR Assistant

The PR Assistant will work in conjunction with the PRO to promote the society events and activities. The division of responsibilities shall be left to the discretion of the PRO/PRA team.

5.6.2.3 Events Officer

The Events Officer is responsible for the organization of society workshops and other social events including, but not limited to, the GUMS Ball, and the London Trip.

5.6.2.4 Schools Liaison Officers/OCM

Responsible for going to see school shows across the county, providing a judging scheme, and organising an awards ceremony for the schools at the end of the year.

5.6.2.5 Outreach Officer/OCM

Responsible for liaisons with Dramsoc regarding the annual Collaborative Musical, and for any other joint productions which may arise; organising raffle prizes and sponsorship for the main musical programme..

5.6.2.6 New Members Liaison Officer / Health and Safety Officer

To help new/existing members feel safe, happy, and included in the society. The New Members Liaison Officer will also have the responsibility of producing the New Members Showcase. The New Members Liaison Officer will represent new member's interests in committee meetings.

To administer the Health and Safety of all events, shows and trips hosted by the society in line with all University and Legislative Regulations. Health and Safety Officer must also have regular and consistent communication with SocsBox to ensure the overall safety of society members.

5.6.2.7 Events Assistant

Responsible for the assistance and organisation of society entertainment and trips - such as but not limited to weekly events, parties, GUMS Ball and the London Trip.

5.6.2.8 Intervarsities Representative

Responsible for choosing the Intervarsities team alongside committee, will be co-opted onto the Intervarsities team and will organise rehearsals, the Intervarsities trip, and liaise with the Host Intervarsities College alongside the Intervarsities OCM chosen by application. If the competition is being hosted in NUIG, the inters rep will become producer for the competition and events throughout the weekend.

5.6.2.9 First Year Representative

First year student(s) who will work in conjunction with the New Members Liaison Officer and assist with the fresher's showcase. They will be responsible for ensuring first year students feel represented and welcomed in the society, at events, ect. Up to two first year representatives shall be elected at an EGM held within a reasonable period after the start of the first year student's academic term.

5.6.2.10 Consent and Welfare Officer

The Consent and Welfare Officer is responsible for the welfare of society members, including

but not limited to occurrences involving intimacy, comfortability, and consent across all society productions.

5.7 Ordinary Committee Members

Ordinary Committee Members (OCMs) shall be elected to a maximum of 4 at an AGM/EGM. They shall be full Committee members and will contribute to the quorum and will have a vote on the Committee. OCM tasks may be allocated as required by the Committee.

5.8 International Exchanges, Erasumus and Placements.

All decisions where a student is to be on an exchange, erasmus or a placement where they cannot reasonably fulfill their role are subject to approval by the USCG.

5.8.1 A student may not be elected to any committee position if they intend to be on an exchange, erasmus or a placement where they cannot reasonably fulfill their role, for the entirety of the academic year.

5.8.2 In the instance that a student is off campus for one semester, they may not be elected to any mandatory positions, unless there is no other student willing to fill that position.

5.8.3 If a student is only granted a place on exchange, erasmus or on placement after such time they have been elected, they must disclose this to the USCG and the society committee. At the time of election, any student must disclose if they are going to be absent for a portion of the year.

5.9 Committee Meetings

5.9.1 Meetings of the Committee shall be held at least 4 times during each academic term. All members of the Committee shall be entitled to attend and vote at such meetings.

5.9.2 The quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be 50% plus 1 Committee members.

5.9.3 Meetings of the Committee shall be convened by the Auditor or by the Secretary; at least 3 days’ notice of a Committee meeting shall be given by the Auditor or Secretary to the members of the Committee.

5.9.4 Meetings may also be convened at the request of 3 or 50% of the Committee, whichever is the larger number, with at least the minimum notice period as per 5.8.3. Failure of the Auditor or Secretary to issue this notice within 5 days of receipt of the request by these members in

writing shall entitle these members to issue said notice to the Committee.

5.9.5 All Committee members must be notified by their chosen email and by other means as agreed.

5.9.6 Committee members that fail to attend 3 consecutive Committee meetings, without apologies accepted by the Committee, shall be deemed to have resigned.

5.10 A Motion of No Confidence

A Motion of No Confidence may be taken about a committee member who is deemed to not be fulfilling their role as outlined in the constitution, or who is deemed not fit to hold their position for other reasons specified and agreed by the committee, or that they make decisions that the majority of the committee feel to be detrimental to the society. The motion must be proposed and seconded at a first meeting where the majority vote must agree to table it for the next committee meeting; it must be on this meeting's agenda. Both meetings must be convened correctly as per the constitution. All meetings should be convened correctly as per this constitution.

5.11 Term of Office of the Committee

The Committee shall hold office for a specific one year term to decided and published by USCG annually. (Currently July 1st – June 30th of the following year).

5.12 The Committee shall have power to elect such other non-voting officers for the carrying out of its objectives. It is the duty of all individual officers in the pursuance of any and all tasks in relation to the society, all officers must do this while also fulfilling the functions of their positions.

Article 6 Committee Meetings

6.1 Meetings of the Committee shall be held at least 4 times or fortnightly during each academic term. All members of the Committee shall be entitled to attend and vote at such meetings.

6.2 The quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be 50% + 1Committee members.

6.3 Meetings of the Committee shall be convened (called) by the Auditor or by the Secretary; at least {insert minimum amount of days here [no less than three days]} days' notice of a Committee meeting shall be given by the Auditor or Secretary to the members of the Committee.

6.4 Meetings may also be convened at the request of 3 or 50% of the Committee, whichever is the larger number, with at least the minimum notice period as per

6.4.1. Failure of the Auditor or Secretary to issue this notice within 5 days of receipt of the request by these members in writing shall entitle these members to issue said notice to the Committee.

6.5 All Committee members must be notified by their chosen email and by other means as agreed.

6.6 Committee members that fail to attend 3 Committee meetings, without apologies accepted by the Committee, shall be deemed to have resigned.

6.7 Motion of no confidence
A motion of no confidence may be taken about a committee member who

(i) is deemed to not be fulfilling their role as outlined in the constitution,
(ii) is deemed not fit to hold their position for other reasons specified and agreed by the committee,
(ii) makes decisions that the majority of the committee feel to be detrimental to the society.
The motion must be proposed and seconded at a first meeting where the majority vote must agree to table it for the next committee meeting it must be on this meeting's agenda. Both meetings must be convened correctly as per
the constitution, with reference to the Societies Complaints Procedure. This decision is subject to approval from USCG before taking effect.

6.8 Term of Office of the Committee
The Committee shall hold office for a specific one year term to decided and published by USCG annually (Currently July 1st – June 30th of the following year).

Article 7 Standing Orders of the Society.

8.1 The Society does have Standing Orders.

8.2 Should the Society have Standing Orders, this Constitution supersedes any and all provisions in the Standing Orders and takes precedence if there is conflict.

8.3 Should the Society have Standing Orders, the Committee shall furnish a copy of the

Standing Orders, and must continue to do so for any amendments or new articles, to the USCG for approval.

8.4 Should the Society have Standing Orders, the Committee shall make available the Standing Orders along with its Constitution on its official Society profile, viewable to all.

Article 8 Annual General Meetings

8.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall take place in the second semester of the academic year, at a time to be determined by the Committee of the Society. The Annual General Meeting must be held before the second semester teaching term ends.

8.2 No less than six days' notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given to the Society's members. The date and time of the AGM shall be notified to the Society's Members. This is done by, at a minimum, uploading the date to the Societies Calendar, emailing all members, and by other means as agreed.

Article 9 Extraordinary General Meetings

9.1 An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society may be convened to:
(i) Hold an election to fill a vacancy on the Committee, should one arise.
(ii) Consider a proposal to amend this Constitution or any other governing instrument of the Society;
(iii) Address any other circumstance not provided for in this Constitution.

9.2 An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened:
(i) By the Auditor or Secretary
(ii) By majority (50% +1) decision of the Committee; or
(iii) On foot of a submission to the Societies Office of a petition signed by not less than 75 Members of the Society or 33% of the membership, whichever is smaller. Only the signatures of Members who are eligible to a vote at General Meetings on the date of submission of the petition, as per Article 10.2, may be counted towards the quota of signatures.

9.3 In the case of a resignation or dismissal, or removal as a result of a USCG or University sanction, from the Committee of a Committee member, the Committee shall have the power to co-opt any full member of the Society to the Committee until the next general meeting (be it an EGM or an AGM), at which a new officer will be appointed. This must be convened within 4 teaching term weeks from the resignation.

9.4 No less than six days' notice of the Extraordinary General Meeting shall be given to the Society's members. The date and time of the EGM shall be notified to theSociety's Members. This is done by, at a minimum, uploading the date to the Societies Calendar, emailing all members, and by other means as agreed.

Article 10 Election of the Committee

10.1 The Committee of the Society shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, except where otherwise provided for in this Constitution.

10.2 The Auditor shall appoint a Returning Officer for elections. The Auditor may appoint himself/herself as returning officer. The Returning Officer may not be a candidate in any of the elections. The Returning Officer must not vote, bar to cast a casting vote in the event of a tie. In the event of a tie, the Auditor, where he/she is the returning officer, receives a casting vote; in the event where the Auditor is not the returning officer, he/she receives no casting vote.

10.3 All Members who are eligible to a vote at General Meetings on the date of an election, as per Article 10.2, shall be eligible for election to the Committee, except as provided for in Article 5.3.

10.4 Candidates for each position on the Committee of the Society must be proposed and seconded by members of the Society at the AGM. The candidates propose themselves.

10.5 The election of members of the Committee shall take place by secret ballot at the AGM. This, at the discretion the Returning Officer with the agreement of two-thirds of the membership attending the AGM, may be changed to a show of hands. Should this be implemented it is considered to be a change confined to that specific AGM/EGM and not be deemed a change to the Constitution.

Article 11 Voting at General Meetings

11.1 Voting shall be by show of hands, unless otherwise determined in a vote at any specific meeting.

11.2 Full Members of at least 30 days standing of the Society shall be entitled to vote in motions at General Meetings. The Secretary must present the membership list of those eligible to vote at the election. Members who sign-up to the society on Socs day 1 are entitled to vote in the first

EGM of the year without being members for 30 days.

11.3 Motions and resolutions must be passed by a simple majority of those Full Members present at the meeting, except where otherwise stipulated in this Constitution.

Article 12 Resignations from the Committee

12.1 The resignation of any member of the Committee shall be instituted by a letter of resignation to the Secretary of the Society.

12.1.1 In the case of the resignation of the Secretary, resignation may be instituted by a letter of resignation to the Auditor.

12.2 In the case of resignation during term time, the resigning Committee member must handover all Society property, passwords and handover documents to the committee as per Article 12.1 and, where practical, assist with the induction of his/her replacement.

Article 13 Handover Documents

13.1 Each outgoing officer of the Committee must present Handover Documents at the end of his/her term detailing the specific roles and responsibilities of their office, and the person(s) with whom he/she conducted the business of the Society, in order to assist the incoming officer with his/her development of the Society.

Article 14 Instigation of Disciplinary Action

14.1 The Committee and all members of the Society shall comply with the disciplinary, grievance, bullying and harassment procedures, and all other procedures of the University and the USCG, as may be added to or amended from time to time, with reference to the Societies Complaints Procedure.

14.1.1 Committee members that bring the Society into disrepute may be removed by the Committee, with reference to the Societies Complaints Procedure. This decision is subject to approval from the USCG before taking effect.

14.1.2 Society members that bring the Society into disrepute may be removed from the

membership list by a vote of the Committee, with reference to the Societies Complaints Procedure. This decision is subject to approval from USCG before taking effect.

The following constitute some examples of breaches of discipline (but breaches are not limited to the following):

(i) Serious or persistent breach of Health and Safety.
(ii) Bringing the name of the Society into disrepute.
(iii) Acting against the aims and/or objectives of the Society.
(iv) Misappropriation of any funding relating to the Society.
(v) Discrimination or Harassment.
(vi) Gross misconduct as interpreted by USCG.
(vii) Breaches of any USCG or University policies or procedures.

Article 15 Management of Finance

15.1 The finances of the Society shall be managed by the Auditor and Treasurer of the Society.

15.1.1 This Constitution also provides for the possibility of an Assistant Treasurer if the Society feels it is necessary.

15.2 It is the responsibility of the Treasurer to ensure that all monies received from the University and sponsors are receipted through the Societies Office.

15.3 No Society Member may use their membership for personal financial gain. Failure to adhere to this article shall result in University Of Galway disciplinary action.

Article 16 Amendments to the Constitution

16.1 Amendments to this Constitution may be passed at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society.

16.1.1 The change to the Constitution must be proposed and seconded and put to the Vote of the members. A proposed amendment is deemed to be passed by a two-Thirds majority of full members present at the AGM/EGM.

16.2 Such amendments to this Constitution shall require the formal ratification of the University Societies Coordination Group before taking effect.

16.3 The Society must upload their current ratified Constitution to its official Society profile.

Article 17 Dissolution of the Society

17.1 The Society may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority vote of its membership present at an AGM or EGM.

17.2 The Society may fall into abeyance or be dissolved by decision of the USCG. The following constitute a non-exhaustive list of grounds for abeyance or dissolution.

(i) Failure to submit a Treasurer's Report, submit receipts for all University grants and provide information for all transactions at the end of the Societies year.
(ii) Failure to submit a Secretary's Report at the end of Societies year.
(iii) Failure to have a table at Societies Day the following September.
(iv) Failure to elect four core committee members by Society Training Weekend.
(v) Failure of at least 2 committee members to attend Society Training without prior acceptance of apologies to the USCG.

17.3 The Society shall fall into abeyance if general activity ceases.

17.4 If the Society remains in abeyance for two consecutive years it will be deemed to be dissolved.

17.5 On dissolution of the Society, all the Societies assets, including intellectual property and virtual rights, shall become the property of the University.

Article 18 The Production Team

6.1 The Production Team will be responsible for the production of the Society's main musical.

6.2 The Production Team will act as a subcommittee.

6.3 All members of the Production Team shall be required to be full members of the Society.

6.4 All full members of the Society are eligible to be elected to the Committee except those explicitly disallowed hereinafter.

6.4.1 Full members are ineligible to stand for election and/or act as a member of the Production Team where they have been subject to a USCG or University sanction prohibiting them from doing so.

6.5 The following positions of the Production Team will be elected by simple majority at an AGM/EGM: Director, Musical Director, Choreographer, Stage Manager.

6.5.1 Director

Responsible for the acting in the main musical and the blocking and directing of performers.

6.5.2 Musical Director

Responsible for performers' singing and chorus singing, as well as the orchestra for the show.

6.5.3 Choreographer

Creates and teaches dance routines for the show.

6.5.4 Stage Manager

The role of Stage Manager is to be responsible for the stage management duties. The Stage manager can assemble a stage management team as they see fit, with the approval from the production team.

6.6 The elected Committee and Production Team will work in collaboration with each other, at their discretion, to elect the remainder of the Production Team as they deem necessary. The specifics of these roles will be decided and voted on by a simple majority of the elected Committee and Production Team.

Article 7 The Intervarsities Team

7.1 The Intervarsities Team will be responsible for the organisation and production of the Intervarsities cast and performance.

7.2 The Intervarsities Team will act as a subcommittee and will be chosen by application.

7.2.1 The Intervarsities Team must be chosen by the end of Semester One, at a time devised by the Committee of the Society. All applicants must submit with details of prior experience, why they believe they are most suitable for the position, and other questions to be devised by the Committee of the Society.

7.3 All members of the Intervarsities Team shall be required to be full members of the Society.

7.4 All full members of the Society are eligible to apply for the position and will be chosen by application by the Committee except those explicitly disallowed hereinafter.

7.4.1 Full members are ineligible to apply for the position where they have been subject to a USCG or University sanction prohibiting them from doing so.

7.5 The following positions of the Intervarsities Team will be chosen by application by the committee: Director, Musical Director, Choreographer, OCM.

7.5.1 Director

Responsible for the acting in the Intervarsities Team performance and the blocking and directing of performers.

7.5.2 Musical Director

Responsible for performers' singing and chorus singing as well as the music for the performance.

7.5.3 Choreographer

Creates and teaches dance routines for the show.

7.5.4 OCM

Helps organise the Intervarsities trip and rehearsals alongside the Outreach Officer.