

## **Article 1 Name of the Society**

1.1 The name of the Society shall be Cumann de Barra, 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.**

2.1 Cumann De Barra is formally affiliated with Fianna Fáil and Ógra Fianna Fáil, recognising these organisations as the primary political bodies with which the society shares its values and vision for Ireland's future. The society operates as a student body within the broader network of organisations aligned with Fianna Fáil.

2.2 Cumann De Barra is committed to promoting and upholding the core values and political principles of Fianna Fáil, including social justice, republicanism, and progressive nationalism. The society will actively engage with Fianna Fáil and Ógra Fianna Fáil to maintain close alignment in its public positions, policies, and events. Any official stance or initiative undertaken by the society shall reflect this alignment.

2.3 The society encourages its members to participate in Fianna Fáil and Ógra Fianna Fáil activities, fostering active engagement in both local and national political discussions. Cumann De Barra will collaborate with these organisations in events, campaigns, and educational initiatives to further political engagement among students who share Fianna Fáil's values.

2.4 While Cumann De Barra is aligned with Fianna Fáil and Ógra Fianna Fáil, the society retains autonomy over its internal governance and activities. However, this autonomy shall be exercised in a manner consistent with the society's commitment to the principles and policies of Fianna Fáil. Any actions or positions that conflict with the values of Fianna Fáil will be subject to review by the society's Executive Committee.

2.5 The society will maintain regular communication with the leadership of Fianna Fáil and Ógra Fianna Fáil to ensure ongoing alignment and collaboration. The Chairperson or a designated officer will report significant society activities to the relevant Fianna Fáil or Ógra Fianna Fáil bodies, ensuring transparency and the continued alignment of goals and objectives.

## **Article 3 Aims of the Society**

3.1 The aims of the society shall be:

### **3.1.1 Promote Political Engagement**

Encourage active participation in political discussions and events related to Fianna Fáil and Ógra Fianna Fáil, fostering an environment where students feel empowered to contribute to local and national issues.

### **3.1.2 Support for Elected Officials and Candidates**

Cumann De Barra aims to actively support Fianna Fáil's elected officials and candidates by engaging members in campaign activities, attending events, and promoting their work within the student community. The society will encourage political participation, helping to mobilise support for Fianna Fáil representatives and candidates during elections.

### **3.1.3 Support Leadership Development**

Encourage members to take on leadership roles within the society and in broader political activities, helping to build a new generation of politically active and engaged young people aligned with Ógra Fianna Fáil.

### **3.1.4 Promote Irish Language and Culture**

Organise events that celebrate and promote the use of the Irish language and Irish culture.

### **3.1.5 Collaborate with Other Societies**

Build connections with other student societies and political groups to foster cooperation on issues of shared concern while maintaining the society's alignment with Fianna Fáil values.

### **3.1.6 Engage with National Campaigns**

Participate in relevant Ógra Fianna Fáil and Fianna Fáil campaigns, both at the university and community level, to support key political objectives and strengthen the society's role in the wider political landscape.

## **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 society's 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 Societies Office. 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 a 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 to 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 the core members 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 Core Positions

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 Auditors shall facilitate the running of the society by the committee. 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 may use his/her casting vote thereafter to decide the tie, except as provided for in Article 9.2. This may or may not be in accordance with his/her 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 his/her duties. The Vice-Auditor will act as Safety Officer unless otherwise specified by the Committee. The Vice-Auditor may fulfil any specific tasks as assigned by the Committee.

##### 5.5.3 Treasurer

The Treasurer will manage the financial affairs of the Society, in consultation with the Auditor & the Committee. The Treasurer will maintain the financial records of the Society. He/she 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

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 of all Committee meetings, general meetings, AGM(s) & EGM(s) during his/her term of office.

#### 5.6 Additional Specified Committee Members

The Society may create Additional Specified Committee Members (ASCMs). ASCMs of the

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Societies are listed and described in article 5.6.2 and its sub-articles respectively.

Where the Society wishes to create, modify or remove an ASCM, 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 ASCM may be co-opted, the Society may vote to allow the duties and title of an ASCM position may be co-opted by the Committee to a member of the Committee.

5.6.2 The following ASCMs will be elected/appointed to the Committee; Public Relations Officer, Safety Officer

#### 5.6.2.1 Public Relations Officer (PRO)

The PRO shall be responsible for publicising the meetings and events of the Society.

#### 5.6.2.2 Safety Officer (SO)

The SO will have responsibility for ensuring compliance with Societies' Safety Procedures and Policies

This position is co-opted into the role of Vice-Auditor unless deemed otherwise by the committee.

#### 5.6.2.3 Education Officer

The Education Officer shall be responsible for organising and promoting educational events, workshops, and initiatives that align with the society's objectives, ensuring that members are informed and engaged in relevant political, social, and academic discussions. The officer will also serve as a liaison between the society and any external speakers or educators, and will support the development of educational resources for the society's members.

#### 5.6.2.4. Womens' Officer

The Women's Officer shall be responsible for advocating for gender equality within the society, ensuring that the voices and concerns of women are represented and addressed. The officer will organise events, campaigns, and initiatives that promote women's participation and leadership, both within the society and in broader political and social contexts. Additionally, the Women's Officer will work to foster an inclusive and supportive environment for all members, particularly addressing issues that affect women in the society.

#### 5.6.2.5. Irish Officer

The Irish Officer shall be responsible for promoting the Irish language and culture within the society, organising events and initiatives that encourage the use of Irish among members. The

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officer will work to foster an appreciation of Irish heritage and facilitate opportunities for members to engage with the language through educational activities, social events, and collaborations with Irish-speaking groups. Additionally, the Irish Officer will ensure that the society's communications and materials reflect its commitment to the Irish language where appropriate.

## 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 Committee Meetings

5.8.1 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.

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

5.8.3 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.

5.8.4 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

5.8.4.1. 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.

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

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

## 5.9 Motion of no confidence

**Ratified on 04-03-2025 by the University Societies' Co-ordination Group**

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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.

#### 5.10 Term of Office of the Committee

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

## **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% + 1 Committee 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.

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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,
- (iii) 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 be decided and published by USCG annually (Currently July 1st – June 30th of the following year).

## **Article 7 Standing Orders of the Society.**

7.1 The Society does not have Standing Orders.

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

7.3 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.

7.4 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 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 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

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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

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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.

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- (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 Irish Language Policy**

18.1 Cumann De Barra is committed to promoting the use of the Irish language (Gaeilge) within its activities and communications. To this end, the society will:

### 18.1.1 Bilingual Communications

Where appropriate, all official communications with members, including emails, social media posts, and promotional materials, will include translations into Irish alongside English. This ensures that the Irish language is integrated into the society's day-to-day operations.

### 18.1.2 Events and Initiatives

The society will endeavour to include Irish language content in its events and activities, such as speeches, announcements, and educational resources, encouraging members to engage with Gaeilge.

### 18.1.3 Accessibility

Translations will be provided in a way that is accessible and understandable to members of all proficiency levels, ensuring inclusivity and fostering an appreciation for the Irish language within the society.

## **Article 19 Education Policy**

19.1 Cumann De Barra recognises the importance of fostering a culture of learning and intellectual growth among its members. The society is committed to supporting the educational development of all members by creating opportunities for learning both within and beyond the university. To this end, the society will:

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## **19.1.1 Promote Academic Excellence**

The society will encourage its members to prioritise their academic responsibilities and support their personal development through educational initiatives that complement their university studies.

## **19.1.2 Organise Educational Events**

Cumann De Barra will aim to organise events on a variety of subjects, offering opportunities for members to expand their knowledge and develop new skills across different disciplines.

## **19.1.3 Collaborate with Educational Bodies**

Where appropriate, the society will collaborate with university departments, academic institutions, and other student societies to provide enhanced educational opportunities.