

Part 1 – Preliminary

1) Affiliation

- 1) The ANU Debating Society (“the Society”) is affiliated with the ANU Students’ Association and with the Postgraduate Students’ Association.
- 2) Anything in this Constitution which is inconsistent with the ANU Students’ Association Clubs and Societies Regulations or any amendments thereto or special rules thereunder shall be null and void to the extent of the inconsistency.
- 3) The Society is non-profit, and assets and income of the Society shall be used only for the promotion of the Society’s objectives and no portion may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to a member or members of the Society except:
 - a) As bona-fide remuneration for services rendered by the member or members of the Society;
 - b) As repayment of expenses incurred on behalf of the Society;
 - c) As interest at a rate not exceeding the rate as would have been charged by the Society’s bankers for money lent to the Society;
 - d) as bona-fide rent for premises let to the Society.
- 4) Section 3 shall not be interpreted so as to exclude the payment of subsidies to members for registration, transport and expenses in connection with Intervarsity tournaments, training seminars or competitions.
- 5) The President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be the Trustees of the ANU Debating Society.

2) Objectives

- 1) The Society aims to:
 - a) Encourage interest and involvement in the activity of debating among ANU students;
 - b) Encourage participation, enjoyment and success for the Society and its members at Intervarsity debating and public speaking competitions.
- 2) The Society is committed to principles of equity and accessibility in debating; particularly for groups that have faced historical and/or systemic disadvantage in society. The Society is committed to policies that advance these groups, including but not limited to Affirmative Action policies for non cis-males in debating.

3) Definitions

- 1) The following terms will be taken to have the following meanings, unless the contrary intention appears:

Committee means the group of members described in section 10(2), and any member appointed under section 10(21) who has had their appointment ratified by a General Meeting in accordance with that subsection.

Executive means the group of committee members described in section 10(1).

Female-identifying means a person who self-identifies as female, irrespective of their biological sex.

First year debater means a person who is in their first calendar year as an ordinary member of ANU Debating Society.

Intervarsity Debating Championship means The Australian Debating Championship, The Australasian Debating Championship, the Australasian Women's Debating Championship and the World University Debating Championships. For the avoidance of doubt, this does not mean any mini or 'IV' other than these four tournaments.

Non cis-male means any person other than a person who identifies as a cis-gendered male.

Ordinary Member means a member of the Society who has paid the membership fee determined in accordance with section 5 of this constitution and who is eligible for such membership as mentioned in section 4(1).

Ordinary Semester means the teaching period of either semester 1 or semester 2 as defined by the ANU University Calendar.

Society means the Australian National University Debating Society.

Part 2 – Membership

4) Eligibility for membership

- 1) A person is eligible for ordinary membership of the Society if they are an ANU Student who subscribes to the objectives of the Society.
- 2) A person is eligible for life membership if they are awarded life membership by a resolution passed by a General Meeting of the Society. Nominees will be selected on the following criteria:
 - a) Contribution to the Society;
 - b) Nurturing and cultivating debating talent in the Society;
 - c) Debating success.

These criteria are not exhaustive and do not need to be equally weighted in awarding life membership.

A list of life members will be maintained in Schedule 1 of this Constitution.

5) Fees for membership

- 1) The Committee will determine a fee, not inconsistent with ANU Clubs and Societies regulations, for membership.
- 2) Payment of the fee shall entitle a person to ordinary membership of the Society until 1 March of the subsequent calendar year.
- 3) A life member who is also eligible for ordinary membership will be granted ordinary membership without payment of the annual fee, until such a time as they are no longer eligible for ordinary membership.

6) Entitlements of members

- 1) An Ordinary Member is entitled to:
 - d) Attend member events;
 - e) Represent the Society as a debater at Intervarsity tournaments;
 - f) Receive subsidies from the Society for the purposes described in Sub-section 4 of Section 1 of this constitution;
 - g) Vote at General Meetings; and
 - h) Run for Committee of the Society.
- 2) A Life Member is entitled to:
 - a) Attend member events;
 - b) Speak on motions, but not vote, at General Meetings.
- 7) Cessation of Membership
 - 1) A Member ceases to be a Member if:
 - a) They resign their membership by writing to the Secretary;
 - b) They die;
 - c) The term of their membership expires;
 - d) Their membership is revoked in accordance with Section 8 of this Constitution.
- 8) Disciplining of members
 - 1) A Member may have their membership revoked or suspended by the Committee if the Committee is of the opinion that the member:
 - a) Has persistently refused or neglected to comply with a provision of these rules; or
 - b) Has persistently and wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the Society; or
 - c) Has committed an action deemed to be in grave breach of the Society's equity policy.
 - 2) A resolution under Subsection 1 of this Section has no effect unless the committee, at a meeting held not earlier than 14 days and not later than 28 days after service on the member of a notice under subsection 3, confirms the resolution in accordance with this section.
 - 3) If the committee passes a resolution under subsection 1 of this section, the secretary must, as soon as practicable, serve a written notice on the member:
 - a) Setting out the resolution of the committee and the grounds on which it is based; and
 - b) Stating that the member may address the committee at a meeting to be held not earlier than 14 days and not later than 28 days after the service of the notice; and

- c) Stating the date, time and place of that meeting; and
 - d) Informing the member that the member may do either or both of the following:
 - i. Attend and speak at that meeting;
 - ii. Submit to the committee at or before the date of that meeting written representations relating to that resolution.
- 4) At a meeting of the committee mentioned in subsection 2, the committee must:
 - a) Give the member mentioned in subsection 1 an opportunity to make oral representations; and
 - b) Give due consideration to any written representations submitted to the committee by that member mentioned in subsection 3; and
 - c) By resolution decide whether to confirm or to revoke the resolution of the committee made under subsection 1.
- 5) If the committee confirms a resolution under subsection 4, the secretary must, within 7 days of that confirmation, by written notice, inform the member of that confirmation and of that member's right to appeal under subsection 7 of this section.
- 6) A resolution confirmed by the committee under subsection 4 does not take effect:
 - a) Until the end of the period within which the member is entitled to appeal against the resolution if the member does not choose to exercise their right to appeal in that period; or
 - b) If within such a period the member exercises the right of appeal, unless and until the Society confirms the resolution in accordance with subsection 9.
- 7) A member may appeal to the Society in a General Meeting against a resolution of the committee that is confirmed under subsection 4 of this section, within 7 days of notice of the resolution being served under subsection 5, by lodging with the secretary written notice to that effect.
- 8) On receipt of a notice under subsection 7, the secretary must notify the committee which must call a Special General Meeting of the Society to be held within 21 days after the notice of appeal was received by the secretary.
- 9) At a Special General Meeting convened under this section:
 - a) No business other than the question of the appeal may be transacted;
 - b) The committee and the member must be given the opportunity to make representations in relation to the appeal orally or in writing, or both; and
 - c) The members present must vote by secret ballot on the question of whether the resolution made under subsection 4 should be confirmed.
- 10) If the meeting passes a resolution in favour of the confirmation, the resolution made under subsection 4 is confirmed. Otherwise, it is revoked.

Part 3 – Committee

9) Powers of the Committee

- 1) The committee, subject to this constitution, and to any resolution passed by the Society at a General Meeting:
 - a) Controls and manages the affairs of the Society; and
 - b) May exercise all functions; and
 - c) Has the power to perform all acts and do all things that appear to the committee to be necessary or desirable for the proper management of the affairs of the association; and
 - d) Pass the budget of the Society; and
 - e) Decide policy regarding:
 - i. Sponsorship;
 - ii. Internal Competitions;
 - iii. Intervarsity Competitions;
 - iv. Social Events; and
 - v. Any other business that is deemed necessary in pursuing the objectives of the Society, other than those functions that are required by this Constitution to be exercised at a General Meeting.

10) Constitution, membership and duties of the committee

- 1) The Executive is composed of:
 - a) The President
 - b) The Vice President (Development)
 - c) The Vice President (Events)
 - d) The Vice President (Diversity)
 - e) The Treasurer
 - f) The Secretary
- 2) The Committee is composed of:
 - a) The Executive
 - b) An Assistant Treasurer
 - c) A Development Officer
 - d) An Events Officer
 - e) An Equity Officer
 - f) A Wom*n's Officer
 - g) A Logistics Officer

- h) Two first year representatives
 - i) The Immediate Past President
- 3) At least one of the equity vice president and equity officer, and at least one first year representative must be a non cis-male.
- 4) The role of the President shall be to:
- a) Ensuring the ongoing wellbeing of the Society by maintaining oversight of the entire Society and ensuring its operations run smoothly;
 - b) Acting on behalf of the Society in public representation and correspondence;
 - c) Working with the committee to ensure that their portfolios are being fulfilled, including the setting of clear milestones and outputs expected of committee members;
 - d) Run meetings of the committee;
 - e) Provide leadership, guidance and purpose to the committee and the Society;
 - f) Take on the duties of any executive member should they be unable to fulfil their duties temporarily.
- 5) The role of the Vice President (Development) shall be to:
- a) Ensure the running of regular internals and training, in coordination with the Development Officer;
 - b) Work with the President to develop and deliver a coherent strategy to member development;
 - c) Produce and/or deliver additional training as necessary;
 - d) Take on duties of the Development Officer should they be unable to fulfil their duties temporarily.

The Vice President (Development) shall be primarily responsible for the organisation of training unless otherwise negotiated with the Development Officer and the President.

- 6) The role of the Vice President (Externals and Events) shall be to:
- a) Ensure the registration and payment of fees for Intervarsity Debating Championships;
 - b) Work with the President to develop and deliver a coherent strategy for the engagement and retention of members;
 - c) Work with the Events Officer to ensure that events are organised in a manner consistent with the strategy mentioned in this subsection;
 - d) Work with the Events Officer to advertise and organise attendance of members at Intervarsity Tournaments and minis;
 - e) Take on duties of the Events Officer should they be unable to fulfil their duties temporarily.

- 7) The role of the Vice President (Diversity) shall be to:
 - a) Undertake all duties of an equity officer;
 - b) Work with the President and Wom*ns Officer to develop and deliver a coherent strategy for the inclusion of all members, with specific focus on members from historically and systemically marginalised groups.
- 8) The role of the Treasurer shall be to:
 - a) Manage the finances of the Society;
 - b) Create and update the budget of the Society;
 - c) Apply for grants through the University;
 - d) Maintain financial security of the Society through seeking and maintain sponsorship;
 - e) Track the financial status of the Society and inform the committee thereof;
 - f) Manage the accounts of the Society; and
 - g) Ensure the Society collects and distributes money as necessary and consistent with the rules of this Constitution.
- 9) The role of the Secretary shall be to:
 - a) Schedule the meetings of the committee;
 - b) Keep minutes at committee meetings and general meetings, and make them available to members of the Society;
 - c) Maintain records of the Society, including a list of all members;
 - d) Publish and distribute the newsletter of the Society;
 - e) Maintain and update the website;
 - f) Advertise the Society to the ANU community; and
 - g) Assist the Logistics Officer with their duties where necessary.
- 10) The role of the Assistant Treasurer shall be to:
 - a) Assist the Treasurer with their duties; and
 - b) Maintain an independent set of books of the Society's finances.
- 11) The role of the Development Officer shall be to:
 - a) Assist the Vice President (Development) with the delivery of the Development Strategy;
 - b) Ensure the delivery of Internal Competitions and Training in cooperation with the Vice President (Development), in a manner agreed with the President.

The Development Officer shall be primarily responsible for Internal Competitions, unless otherwise negotiated with the Vice President (Development) and the President.

12) The role of the Events Officer shall be to:

- a) Organise Social Events for members;
- b) Organise public debates and other events to advertise the work of the Society;
- c) Work with the Vice President (Externals and Events) to advertise attendance of members at Intervarsity Tournaments and minis.

13) The role of the Equity Officer shall be to:

- a) Create, maintain and update the Society's equity policies and processes;
- b) Ensure that all members are aware of their obligations and rights under the equity policy and processes of the Society;
- c) Ensure compliance by the committee and all members with the equity policy;
- d) Be available or ensure the availability of another appropriate person as a contact officer for equity issues;
- e) Hear and respond to complaints of violations of the equity policy, in a manner consistent with the principles of that policy and the processes of the Society;
- f) Maintain the confidentiality of complainants wherever appropriate; and
- g) Work with equity officers at tournaments to ensure members of the Society are compliant with tournament equity policies and are assisted with equity issues that may arise.

14) The role of the Wom*n's Officer shall be to:

- a) Act as a voice for the issues of wom*n in the Society;
- b) Run social events and other events for women in the society;
- c) Communicate with wom*n in the Society to gauge opinions about matters concerning the Society;
- d) Ensure the interests of female-identifying members of the Society are considered in all committee decisions.

15) The role of the Logistics Officer shall be to:

- a) Ensure that food is available at events run by the Society;
- b) Assist all portfolios with organisation of events where necessary, including booking of rooms and other logistical issues;
- c) Coordinate with the organisation committee of all minis run by the Society and providing support where required.

16) The role of the Immediate Past President shall be to:

- a) Provide advice to the Committee on any matter, as requested by the Committee;

- 17) b) Provide a handover and advice to the President as requested;
- 18) The role of the First Year representatives shall be to:
- a) Act as a voice for the issues of First Year members of the Society;
 - b) Run social events and other events for First Year members of the Society;
 - c) Communicate with First Year members to gauge opinions about matters concerning the Society, including running at least one forum for First Year members during the year to allow First Year members to voice any concerns or issues that they want raised with the committee;
 - d) Ensure all First Year members of the Society are considered in all decisions of the committee.
- 19) No individual may hold more than one office on the committee.
- 20) In a case where a General Meeting determines that a role should be filled by two people, the General Meeting shall resolve a single office holder to be eligible to vote at committee meetings. For the avoidance of doubt, this does not include the two equity officers or two first year representatives, who are all committee members in their own right and are each entitled to a vote accordingly.
- 21) Each member of the committee holds office, subject to this constitution, until the first day of November after the conclusion of the annual general meeting following the date of the member's election, but is eligible for re-election.
- 22) If there is a vacancy in the membership of the committee for any officer which is not a member of the Executive, the committee may appoint a member of the Society to fill the vacancy and the member so appointed holds office, subject to this constitution, until the first day of November after the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the Society.
- 23) If there is a vacancy in the membership of the Executive, the committee may appoint a member as an interim office holder. The interim office holder will hold the office until an election for the position is held at a General Meeting. The election to fill a vacancy under this subsection must occur:
- a) If a vacancy arises within 6 weeks of the Annual General Meeting, or of a General Meeting under described under subsection 15.1c, at that meeting;
 - b) Otherwise, if the vacancy arises within 2 weeks of the start of an ordinary semester and no more than 4 weeks from the end of an ordinary semester, at a General Meeting held within 28 calendar days of the vacancy arising;
 - c) Otherwise, at a General Meeting no later than 3 weeks after the commencement of the next ordinary semester.

For the avoidance of doubt, the person appointed interim office holder is eligible to stand for election at the meeting under this subsection.

If a General Meeting called under this subsection is inquorate, the interim office holder will continue to hold the position until a quorate General Meeting is held in accordance with subsections 15.9, 15.10, and 15.11.

- 24) From time to time the committee may resolve to create a new office bearer position. Such a position may be filled under the procedure of subsection 19 of this section. Such a member appointed to a position created under this subsection may not vote on resolutions of the committee until such time as a General Meeting resolves that they may vote on committee resolutions.
- 25) A position created subject to subsection 21 will cease to exist at the next Annual General Meeting following its creation.

11) Election of committee members

- 1) The committee, with the exception of the Immediate Past President and First Year Representatives, will be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Society.
- 2) The First Year Representatives will be elected in the General Meeting convened under Section 15(1c).
- 3) The Immediate Past President will be appointed on the date that the new President takes office following an Annual General Meeting.
- 4) The presiding officer for a General Meeting must not preside over any elections at that meeting if they are standing as a candidate for any position at that meeting. In such a circumstance, a new presiding officer should be selected by the procedure listed in section 15(12).
- 5) The General Meeting will select a returning officer by resolution. The returning officer will count ballots. The returning officer must not be a member running for any office at that meeting. The returning officer is ineligible to vote in the election for which they are returning officer.
- 6) Only female identifying members may nominate for and vote in the election of the Wom*n's Officer.
- 7) Only First Years may nominate for and vote in the election of the First Year Representative.
- 8) A member is eligible to run for office if they are eligible to vote at that election under Section 15(16) of this Constitution.
- 9) Positions will be elected in the order they appear in section 10.
- 10) Subject to subsection 8, any Ordinary Member eligible to vote at the General Meeting may nominate themselves or another Ordinary Member for election. A nomination must be seconded by another Ordinary Member who is eligible to vote at the General Meeting before being accepted by the presiding officer.
- 11) Once nominations have been received, the presiding officer must permit any candidates to speak for a time to be resolved by the Meeting. Candidates will speak in an order determined randomly. Candidates must not be present for the speech of a candidate that is contesting the same position as them.
- 12) Ordinary Members will be permitted to ask questions of one or multiple candidates. The number of questions permitted will be resolved by the Meeting.
- 13) Once speeches and questions are concluded, an election must be held for the position. The election of committee members shall be done by secret ballot at a General Meeting. Where more than two candidates contest a position, preferential voting with a single transferable vote will be used.

- 14) The Returning Officer will announce the result of each election before the next position is elected. The Returning Officer will not announce the margin or number of ballots cast for each candidate.
- 15) At least one third of the committee must be non cis-males. At least one third of the executive must be non cis-males. In the event that an Annual General Meeting does not return results that meet these requirements, the returning officer will determine the positions in which a non cis-male lost by the lowest margin. The returning officer will declare the non-cis candidates the winner of those elections in order until the affirmative action requirement has been satisfied.
- 16) The result of the election of the President cannot be changed by subsection 15.

12) Removal of committee members

- 1) A committee member may be removed if:
 - a) They resign;
 - b) They die;
 - c) The committee resolves under subsection 2 to remove them from their role
- 2) The committee may resolve to remove a member of the committee if:
 - a) The committee member has failed to attend three consecutive meetings without apology in writing to the secretary before the commencement of the meetings; or
 - b) The committee member has failed to carry out their duties as required of them by this Constitution.
- 3) A resolution under subsection 2 must pass with a two-thirds majority of the committee to take effect.
- 4) Once a resolution under subsection 2 has passed, the committee member must be served notice of their removal, in writing, by the Secretary, no more than 7 days after the resolution has passed.
- 5) A member removed under this section may appeal the decision to a General Meeting by serving notice to that effect to the Secretary no more than 7 days after receiving notice of the resolution under subsection 4.
- 6) If a member chooses to appeal under subsection 5, the committee must call a General Meeting to confirm the decision. The meeting must be convened no sooner than 14 days and not more than 28 days after notice of the intent to appeal is received.
- 7) At the General Meeting convened under subsection 6, no business may be considered except the removal of the committee member. The committee and the committee member will be given the chance to make oral and/or written representations.
- 8) A resolution under subsection 2 does not take effect until:
 - a) the end of the 7 day period in which they may appeal the decision, if they do not choose to exercise their right to appeal in that time; or

- b) if they do choose to appeal, unless and until the resolution is confirmed by a simple majority of that General Meeting at which the appeal is heard.
- 9) Members may, through petitioning for a General Meeting under section 15(1b), move a motion removing a committee member without the need for the committee to pass a resolution under subsection 2. The procedure for such a meeting will be conducted in the same manner as though it were an appeal under this section.
- 10) A vacancy caused by the removal of a member under this section must be filled in line with section 10(21). If the removal occurs through an appeal to a General Meeting, that General Meeting may also appoint a replacement officer without the need to call another General Meeting.

13) Meetings of the committee

- 1) The committee must meet at least once per month during teaching periods.
- 2) Quorum for a meeting of the committee is:
 - a) 50% of voting members of the committee; and
 - b) At least two members of the Executive.
- 3) The President will determine the date, time and place of a meeting, in consultation with the committee. The Secretary must provide written notice to all members of the committee of the date, time and place of the meeting not less than 48 hours before the scheduled start time of the meeting.
- 4) The President will be the presiding officer of a meeting. In the absence of the President, the committee will resolve a Vice President to preside. If no Vice President is present, the Treasurer will be the presiding officer.
- 5) The committee must vote on resolutions affecting:
 - a) The spending of Society monies;
 - b) Any policy described in section 9;
 - c) Any time described in this Constitution requiring a resolution of the committee;
 - d) Any other issue where a member of the committee requests that a question be resolved by a vote.
- 6) The committee may vote through show of hands or secret ballot. If a member requests of the presiding officer that a vote be done by secret ballot, then the vote must be by secret ballot.
- 7) The Immediate Past President does not have a vote at committee meetings.
- 8) Unless otherwise provided for in these rules, a resolution passes if it receives a simple majority of votes cast, not including abstentions. In the case of a tied vote, a resolution is deemed to have failed.
- 9) The committee will permit a member of the committee to appoint a proxy should they be unable to attend. The proxy must be given to another member of the committee. The proxy will be able to exercise that vote on behalf of the member on all resolutions at that meeting. A proxy must be nominated by the committee member in writing to the secretary not less than one hour before the scheduled

commencement of the meeting. Proxies do not count toward quorum for the meeting.

- 10) The Secretary will keep minutes of all meetings of the committee. In the absence of the Secretary, another member will be chosen to take minutes. The minutes must be available to all members of the Society.
- 11) A resolution of the committee may be changed or set aside by the Ordinary Members of the Society at a General Meeting. A member wishing to move a motion to change or set aside a decision of the committee must submit notice to the Secretary of such a motion, in the manner mentioned in section 15.
- 12) At the next General Meeting following receipt of notice of a motion to set aside or change a resolution of the committee:
 - a) The motion shall be put to members; and
 - b) The motion shall be discussed by members; and
 - c) The motion shall be voted on by members.
- 13) A motion under subsection 11 that receives a majority of votes at that meeting must be set aside or changed by the committee in the manner described in the motion.

Part 4 – General Meetings

14) Annual general meetings

- 1) The Society will hold an Annual General Meeting in Term 4 of Semester 2 of each year.
- 2) The date, time and location of the Annual General Meeting will be determined by resolution of the committee.
- 3) In addition to any additional business that may be raised subject to Section the business of each Annual General Meeting must include:
 - a) The approval of minutes from the previous Annual General Meeting;
 - b) A report from the President on the activities of the last year;
 - c) A report from the Treasurer on the financial activities of the last year and current financial position of the Society;
 - d) The election of the Committee members for the following year.
- 4) An Annual General Meeting must be specified as such in the notice given under subsection 15(5).
- 5) Unless otherwise specified, all provisions for General Meetings specified under section 15 of this Part also apply to an Annual General Meeting.

15) General Meetings

- 1) A General Meeting of the Society must be called:

- a) from time to time as the Committee resolves;
 - b) on the receipt by the Secretary of a written request for a General Meeting, signed or endorsed by at least 10 Ordinary Members of the Society;
 - c) at least once during Semester 1.
- 2) A General Meeting called under subsection 1(b) must be called:
 - a) no less than 1 week after the request is received by the Secretary, and
 - b) no more than 4 weeks after the request is received by the Secretary.
- 3) The General Meeting convened under subsection 1(c) shall include in its business:
 - a) The election of the First Year Representatives of the Society, in accordance with Section (whatever on elections).
- 4) The business at a General Meeting shall include:
 - a) Any matters so resolved by the Committee; and
 - b) Any other business requested by an Ordinary Member of the Society.
- 5) The Secretary must provide notice to all members, no less than 7 calendar days before a General Meeting. Notice under this section must state:
 - a) The time and date of the General Meeting;
 - b) The location of the General Meeting; and
 - c) Any business to be considered at the General Meeting.
- 6) No business may be considered by a General Meeting except as specified in notice given under Subsection 5.
- 7) Any member wishing to bring business before a General Meeting should notify the Secretary in writing. The Secretary must include any business received under this Section in the notice for the next General Meeting that is not a Special General Meeting convened under Sections 8(8) or 12(6).
- 8) No item of business shall be transacted at a General Meeting unless a quorum of members entitled under these rules to vote is present during the time that that item is being considered.
- 9) Quorum for any General Meeting of the Society is 20 Ordinary Members who are eligible to vote being physically present at the meeting. For the avoidance of doubt, where proxies are permitted, the votes held by proxy do not count towards quorum.
- 10) If, within 30 minutes of the scheduled commencement time of the meeting, quorum has not been achieved:
 - a) A meeting convened by request of members under Subsection 1b of this Section shall be dissolved
 - b) A meeting convened under any other circumstances shall stand adjourned until the same day and time the following week. The place of

the meeting shall be the same as the original meeting, or another location specified at the time of the adjournment.

- 11) If at the adjournment meeting convened in accordance with Section 10b quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the scheduled start time:
 - a) If 15 or more voting members are present, the members present shall constitute quorum; or
 - b) If fewer than 15 voting members are present, the meeting may proceed, but any resolution from the meeting must be ratified by a future General Meeting.
- 12) The presiding member at a General Meeting shall be the President. If the President is not present, the presiding member shall be selected from one of the Vice Presidents present at the meeting. Should no Vice President be present, the Ordinary Members of the Society present at the meeting shall select a presiding member from among their number.
- 13) The presiding member, at a general meeting at which quorum is present, may, with the consent of the majority of voting members present at the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place. No business may be transacted at an adjournment meeting except for that which was left unfinished at the meeting at which the adjournment took place.
- 14) If a General Meeting is adjourned for a period of 14 days or more, the Secretary must give notice to all members in line with the requirements of Section 5.
- 15) A question arising at a General Meeting is decided by a vote of the Ordinary Members present and any proxies received subject to Subsection 21. The presiding officer may determine the manner in which votes are cast. If any Ordinary Member present requests that a vote be done by secret ballot, the presiding officer shall determine the method as such.
- 16) A member is eligible to vote at a General Meeting if:
 - a) They are an Ordinary Member; and
 - b) They have been an Ordinary Member for at least 28 days before the date of the General Meeting; and
 - c) They have attended at least two events with the Society in that Calendar Year, with at least one event being a Debating Related Event.
- 17) For the purposes of subsection 16:
 - a) A debating related event includes:
 - i. A training sessions;
 - ii. A round of internals (as a debater, adjudicator, or an observer);
 - iii. An Intervarsity Competition; and
 - iv. A 'mini' debating competition, held by any University.
 - b) An Event includes
 - i. Any Debating Related Event;

- ii. A social event;
 - iii. A mentoring event.
- 18) Each Ordinary Member present is entitled to a single vote on each resolution of the General Meeting. The presiding officer may vote. A returning officer described under Section 11(5) may not vote, even if they are an Ordinary Member of the Society.
- 19) Any proxy received subject to subsection 21 is entitled to a single vote on each resolution of the General Meeting.
- 20) Except in questions of amending this constitution, or in other circumstances specifically described by this constitution, a resolution at a General Meeting shall be resolved in the affirmative if it receives a number of votes greater than 50% of the votes cast on the question. For the purposes of this section, an abstention does not count as a vote cast. If a number of votes cast in favour of a motion is equal to or less than the number cast against, the motion will be determined to have failed.
- 21) A member who would be entitled to vote if they were physically present at a meeting may, by writing to the Secretary no less than 24 hours before the commencement of a General Meeting, appoint another member as their proxy for all resolutions at that meeting.
- 22) No member physically present at the meeting may hold more than one proxy. Should a person be appointed a proxy by two or more members, the proxies will be granted in the order that they were received by the Secretary. Any member whose proxy is not granted under this Section will be given the opportunity by the Secretary to appoint a different member as their proxy. Under these circumstances the member appointing a proxy will be given until 1 hour before the scheduled commencement of the meeting to inform the Secretary, in writing, of their new proxy.

Part 5 – Intervarsity Tournaments

16) Selection Panels

- 1) Selection panels will be chosen by the committee for each Intervarsity tournament.
- 2) Each panel must include at least one non cis-male. In the case of Wom*ns, all panel members must be non cis-males.
- 3) The committee must be of the opinion that the members of the panel are:
 - a) Sufficiently qualified to judge trials; and
 - b) Not biased for or against any person trialling for the contingent.

17) Affirmative Action

- 1) Every contingent must meet the Affirmative Action requirements of the tournament in question.
- 2) Where a tournament does not have an Affirmative Action policy for non cis-males, or where the requirements are less stringent than the rules in subsection 3, the

selectors will apply the requirements of subsection 3 in addition to the requirements of the tournament, unless a determination is made under subsection 4.

- 3) For every intervarsity tournament:
 - a) At least one third of the contingent, debaters, and top three teams must be non cis-males; and
 - b) At least one third of the contingent, debaters, and top three teams must be female-identifying.
- 4) The provisions of subsection 3a must be met before applying subsection 3b. The application of 3b must not be done in a way that detracts any non cis-male debater or adjudicator.
- 5) Should the committee resolve that the Society has made all reasonable efforts to meet the requirements of subsection 3, the committee may resolve to set aside these requirements on a case-by-case basis. Any such resolution must be passed by:
 - a) A majority of the committee; and
 - b) A majority of the non cis-males of the committee.

18) The Australian Intersvarsity Debating Championships

- 1) Teams for the Australian Intersvarsity Debating Championships must be selected in such a way that:
 - a) Does not breach the competition rules defined by AIDA; and
 - b) Reflects the priorities of the Society, as resolved by the committee; and
 - c) Does not breach section 17 of this Constitution.
- 2) Teams will be chosen by a panel of at least two selectors chosen in accordance with section 16.
- 3) The selectors must rank novices and experienced debaters independently. Selectors may trial experienced debaters through trial debates, CV, or both, as directed by the committee. Teams must then be formed in a way that considers:
 - a) The rankings achieved by speakers;
 - b) The priorities of the Society; and
 - c) Concerns for equity and team dynamics.
- 4) Before debaters are informed of their teams, a panel may amend the teams if there is a belief that to not do so would be detrimental to individuals in those teams. This panel shall be comprised of the Wom*n's Officer, the President and the Vice President (Events), unless any of these are attending the tournament as a debater. If one or more of these people are attending the tournament as a debater, their position will be taken by another member of the committee or a person that the committee resolves is suitable who is not attending as a debater. If there are insufficient people not attending as a debater, the panel will resume its original composition, with priority given in the order the positions appear in this

subsection. The panel must always include at least one female-identifying member.

- 5) The numbering of the top three teams must reflect the rankings achieved by the speakers in those teams. The committee may resolve to randomise the numbering of all other teams, or to maintain the rankings as provided by the selectors. Such a resolution must be made before the selectors release team rankings.
- 6) Adjudicators will be ranked by a panel of selectors, none of whom are trialling as an adjudicator. The ranking of adjudicators may take into account CV, a trial debate, or both, as the committee resolves.

19) Australasian Debating Championships and World University Debating Championships

- 1) Teams for the Australian Intersvarsity Debating Championships and World University Debating Championships must be selected in such a way that:
 - a) Does not breach the competition rules; and
 - b) Reflects the priorities of the Society, as resolved by the committee; and
 - c) Does not breach section 17 of this constitution.
- 2) Teams will be chosen by a panel of at least two selectors chosen in accordance with section 16.
- 3) The selectors must rank debaters. Selectors may trial debaters through trial debates, or trial debates and CV, as directed by the committee.
- 4) Teams will be formed in a selection meeting, in a manner resolved by the committee before such time as the rankings are released.
- 5) Teams will be numbered as ranked.
- 6) Adjudicators will be ranked by a panel of selectors, none of whom are trialling as an adjudicator. The ranking of adjudicators may take into account CV, a trial debate, or both, as the committee resolves.

20) Wom*ns

- 1) Teams for the Australian Intersvarsity Debating Championships must be selected in such a way that:
 - a) Does not breach the competition rules defined by AIDA; and
 - b) Reflects the priorities of the Society, as resolved by the committee.
- 2) Teams will be chosen by a panel of at least two selectors chosen in accordance with section 16.
- 3) The selectors must rank novices and experienced debaters independently. Selectors may trial experienced debaters through trial debates, CV, or both, as directed by the committee. Teams must then be formed in a way that considers:
 - a) The rankings achieved by speakers;
 - b) The priorities of the Society; and

- c) Concerns for equity and team dynamics.
- 4) The numbering of the top three teams must reflect the rankings achieved by the speakers in those teams. The committee may resolve to randomise the numbering of all other teams, or to maintain the rankings as provided by the selectors. Such a resolution must be made before the selectors release team rankings.
- 5) Adjudicators will be ranked by a panel of selectors, none of whom are trialling as an adjudicator. The ranking of adjudicators may take into account CV, a trial debate, or both, as the committee resolves.

Part 6 – Miscellaneous

21) Dissolution of the Society

- 1) The Society may be dissolved by a decision of the current membership at a general meeting or when the Society ceases to operate due to no members being elected to the Executive or the Society ceasing to function through natural attrition. In the cases of the Society being dissolved, any excess assets, property, funds and/or money remaining after all debts and liabilities of the Society are paid shall not be given to members but shall instead be given or transferred to the ANU Clubs and Societies Council.

22) Amending this Constitution

- 1) This constitution may be amended at a General Meeting by a two third majority, provided there is quorum at that meeting.

Schedule 1 – List of Life Members

The following people were awarded life membership in recognition of the outstanding contribution that they each made to the ANU Debating Society. The year in which life membership was awarded is shown in brackets.

Emily Bryne (2006)

Matthew Sherman (2010)

Cameron Winnett (2011)

Sonia Loudon (2012)

Jacqueline Yates (2014)

Richard Keys (2015)

Vincent Chiang (2015)

Thomas Goldie (2016)

James Richardson (2018)

Julia Liu (2018)

Richard “Bobby” Clark (2018)