**LUU Leeds Labour Society**

**CONSTITUTION**

**Definitions**

Activities Executive - the elected students representing Clubs and Societies as outlined in Bye-Law 11:2

Activities & Opportunities Officer - the elected student who leads the Activities Executive. Their role is outlined in Bye-Law 10

**1 Name, Aims and Objectives**

1.1 The name of the Club/Society is Leeds University Union **Leeds Labour Society**, hereafter referred to as the Club/Society, or such other name agreed at an AGM or EGM with the approval of the Activities & Opportunities Officer.

1.2 The objectives of the Club/Society are:-

1.2.1 To support the cause of the Labour Party.

1.2.2 To support the values of the Labour movement, consistent with the Labour Party Rule Book.

1.2.3 To secure support for the Labour Party and Labour values at the University of Leeds and surrounding communities and universities.

1.2.4 To liaise with local Branch Labour Parties, Constituency Labour Parties, District Labour Parties, Young Labour, trade unions, and other organisations associated with the Labour movement.

1.2.5 To run social events for Club members and organise speaker events and debates to stimulate political discussion and thought amongst all students.

**2 Membership**

2.1 Membership takes effect on completion of registration with the Club/Society, including listing of membership details with the LUU Student Activities Team. Where relevant this will include payment of the Club/Society membership fee.

2.2 Categories of membership and associate rights are shown in the table below. **Members only have the rights outlined in the relevant row.**

|   | **Category** | **Rights** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2.2.1 | **Full Membership** may be granted only to current Members of Leeds University Union. Members are as defined in the LUU Articles of Association. | ● To attend all meetings and take part in society activities● To vote on all questions of policy within the club/society● To nominate candidates for election as Core Officers and Committee Members of the club/society● To vote to appoint the Core Officers and the Committee Members of the club/society● To hold office on and stand for election as a Core Officer or Committee Member of the club/society● Membership fees and participation in activities may be subsidised using LUU grants |
| 2.2.2 | **Associate Membership** may be granted to students registered at an HE or FE institution in Leeds | ● To attend meetings and take part in society activities (other than competing in external competitions) at the discretion of the Committee● To hold office on and stand for election as a Committee Member, excluding Core Committee positions, of the club/society● Membership fees and participation in activities *cannot* be subsidised using LUU grants. |
| 2.2.3 | **Alumni Membership** may be granted to graduates of the University of Leeds | ● To attend meetings and take part in society activities (other than competing in external competitions) at the discretion of the Committee● To hold office on and stand for election as a Committee Member, excluding Core Committee positions, of the club/society● Membership fees and participation in activities *cannot* be subsidised using LUU grants. |
| 2.2.4 | **Honorary Life Membership** may be granted to a person that the club/society wishes to honour for services to the group | ● To attend meetings and take part in society activities (other than competing in external competitions) at the discretion of the Committee● Membership fees and participation in activities *cannot* be subsidised using LUU grants. |
| 2.2.5 | **Ex-Officio** members will be the Activities & Opportunities Officer and the relevant Activities Executive representative | * To attend all meetings and take part in society activities
* To vote on all questions of policy within the club/society
* To nominate candidates for election as Core Officers and Committee Members of the club/society
* To vote to appoint the Core Officers and the Committee Members of the club/society
* Membership fees and participation in activities may be subsidised using LUU grants
 |
| 2.2.6 | Public Membership may be granted to any member of the public **only** with permission of the Activities & Opportunities Officer and where there is good reason for granting such permission. | ● To attend meetings and take part in society activities (other than competing in external competitions) at the discretion of the Committee● Membership fees and participation in activities *cannot* be subsidised using LUU grants. |

**3 Club/Society Committee Members**

3.1 The Committee shall consist of the four Core Officers, and up totenAdditional Members.

3.2 The four Core Officers must be Full Members as outlined in section 2.2.1.

3.3 Any Additional Committee Members must be Full Members, Associate Members or Alumni Members as outlined in section 2.2.1.

3.4 All Committee Members will be appointed by a vote of Full Members at the AGM or an EGM.

3.5 The term of office of all Committee roles will be approximately twelve months.

3.6 All Club & Society Committee Members must adhere to the Committee Member Code of Standards. This is available on the LUU website. A breach of this Code of Standards may result in removal of the Committee member from their role.

**4 Core Officer Roles and Duties**

4.1 The Core Officers have overall responsibility for the good running and financial oversight of the Club or Society for the benefit of its members and in line with the stated aims and objectives.

4.2 The primary duties and responsibilities of Core Officers are:

4.2.1 Attending all relevant committee training and ensuring an awareness of the requirements placed upon them as Core Officers, including complying with requests from the Activities Executive regarding the group.

4.2.2 Being a signatory to the Club/Society LUU cash office account.

4.2.3 Ensuring the Club/Society meets the requirements of the annual compliance check against all relevant LUU policy as determined by the Activities & Opportunities Officer and in accordance with relevant legal requirements as determined by the Head of Student Engagement.

4.2.4 Ensuring the Club/Society LUU webpage, and, if applicable, own website and/or Facebook or similar social media sites, are maintained in line with relevant LUU policy.

4.2.5 Running and attending all committee meetings and AGMs in line with the rules outlined in this constitution.

4.2.6 Dealing with any complaints or disciplinary matters in line with the rules outlined in this constitution.

4.2.7 Attending Executive Category Meetings (at least one Core Officer must attend); and

4.2.8 Ensuring consultation with Full Members regarding their views on Ideas going to Better Union Forums.

4.2.9 Passing on the views of Full Members regarding Ideas to the relevant member of the Activities Executive, ideally at the ECM.

4.3 Failure to fulfil these duties may result in a motion of no-confidence and removal from office by an EGM or the Activities & Opportunities Officer.

4.4 The four Core Officers have additional individual roles and duties alongside those outlined in 4.2:

**4.4.1 Co-Chairs:**

● organising and overseeing the running of the Club/Society

● chairing Committee Meetings, AGMs and EGMs

● ensuring the production of an annual report

● ensuring there is an up to date entry in the Club/Society’s LUU webpage

**4.4.2 Secretary:**

● maintaining membership records containing at least the name and membership category of all the Club/Society’s members

● producing agenda documents for all meetings

● maintaining a written record of all meetings

● maintaining an up-to-date copy of the Club/Society constitution

● ensuring only Full and Ex-Officio Members are given an opportunity to vote in society elections

**4.4.3 Treasurer:**

● managing the finances of the Club/Society

● maintaining up-to-date accounts with the LUU Cash Office only

● submitting subsidy applications to Activities Executive

● produce a termly report and yearly budget

● submitting a detailed statement of accounts for the year to the Club/Society’s Annual General Meeting.

4.5 The co-chairs must stand on a joint ticket with at least one individual identifying as not male.

**5 Additional Committee roles and duties**

5.1 The Activities & Opportunities Officer, elected annually to lead LUU as part of the Student Executive team, is an ex-officio member of each society, and has specific duties to manage all Clubs & Societies. The Activities & Opportunities Officer approves most Club & Society decisions made at AGM or EGM, and leads the Activities Executive who make decisions about complaints and disciplinary action.

5.2 The Club/Society may appoint Additional Committee Members to assist the Core Officers in the running and management of the Club/Society.

5.3 All Additional Committee Members must attend committee meetings, AGMs and EGMs in line with the rules outlined in this constitution.

5.4 Failure to fulfil these duties and those listed in the relevant paragraphs below may result in a motion of no-confidence and removal from office by an EGM, the Activities and Opportunities Officer or the Activities Executive.

5.5 The Additional Committee roles will be:

**5.5.1 Events Officer**

* Organising a wide range of events for the society
* Ensuring all event forms and risk assessments are completed and ensuring the external speaker process is followed where relevant
* Working with relevant officers to ensure events are inclusive and accessible for all
* Ensuring society events are widely advertised to members

**5.5.2 Internal Campaigns Officer**

* Organises internal collaborative campaigns
* Liaise with LUU about internal campaigns
* Work with other universities on university and student specific issues

**5.5.3 External Campaigns Officer**

* Organises regular local campaigning sessions
* Liaise with local councillors, MPs and other Labour representatives
* Work with Leeds-based community groups on local area campaigns
* Coordinates with local CLPs and candidates during election campaigns

**5.5.4 Social Officer**

* Plan a wide variety of social events for members to meet each other with a balanced mix of alcohol and alcohol free events
* Ensure events are accessible and inclusive working with relevant officers
* Ensure society events are widely advertised to both members and potential new members

**5.5.5 Web & Publicity Officer**

* Advertise events on the society’s social media pages
* Maintain up-to-date LUU website and social medias
* Represent the society’s interests online

**5.5.6 Freshers’ Representative Officer**

* Ensures there is clear communication between freshers, those in the years above, and committee members.
* Represents Freshers’ interests within the society

5.6 Liberation Officers

5.6.1 Liberation Officers shall act as Additional Committee Members alongside the roles outlined in paragraph 5.5 and the Core Officers.

5.6.2 Liberation Officers shall be comprised of Women’s Officer, LGBT+ Officer, BAME Officer and Disabled Students’ Officer.

5.6.3 These roles shall hold the following responsibilities:

* Supporting all committee members to ensure that LLS is taking steps to diversify its membership, aiming to match the demographic of Full Members to reflect that of all students registered at the University of Leeds
* Advising the Committee about the possible impact of activities from an equality and inclusion perspective
* Attending all recommended training to enable them to fulfil their role
* Organising caucus meetings that are inclusive and welcoming to any members who identify within the caucus and representing the view of those members within the society, LUU and externally

**6 Elections to Committee Roles**

6.1 The Returning Officer for elections will be the Activities & Opportunities Officer. However their presence is not required at each election.

6.2 Elections shall take place by a secret ballot of Full members using the approved LUU mechanism with the exception of elections for Liberation Officers.

6.3 Candidates for positions on the Club/Society committee can only be nominated by Full Members of the Club/Society. For the purposes of clarity, Full Members may nominate themselves.

6.4 Nominations will open at least 10 working days before the AGM or EGM.

6.4.1 For online elections the nominations must be open for at least 10 working days, and the voting period must be at least 24 hours.

6.5 Nominations should be through the official process (i.e. the process which has been approved by the Activities & Opportunities Officer or their nominee) and shared with the Activities & Opportunities Officer or their nominee.

6.6 Newly elected Club/Society Committee members must assume their duties after their handover and before the end of the academic year with the exception of Freshers’ Representative Officer and Liberation Officers. The anticipated date for assuming these duties should be published with the opening of nominations.

6.7 Liberation Officers shall be elected within a caucus meeting by self-identifying members of the respective caucus, which should be held within the first 3 months of the academic year.

6.7.1 Responsibility for organising and delegating a chair for each caucus shall lie with the incumbent Liberation Officer, or, where a post is vacant, with the Core Officers.

6.7.2 Voting for Liberation Officers shall be by secret ballot using Single Transferable Vote and the count will take place within the caucus.

6.8 The Freshers’ Representative Officer shall be elected at a special election using the approved LUU mechanism, held within the first 3 months of the academic year.

6.9 Any election that results in a tie shall be resolved by the toss of a coin, conducted by one of the Core Officers, or if for the election of a Liberation officer, by the chair of the caucus meeting.

**7 Club and Society Formal Meetings**

7.1 The Activities Executive or Activities & Opportunities Officer may, at their discretion, send an observer to any Club/Society formal meeting.

7.1.2 If any Full Member moves a no confidence in the Chair, and such a motion has a second, a vote shall be taken immediately.

7.1.3 If a motion of no confidence in the Chair is passed, a new temporary Chair will be elected by Full Members at the meeting.

7.1.4 Decision making should ideally be by consensus. However if a vote is needed, voting shall be by show of hands unless a secret ballot has previously been requested, and decisions will be made by simple majority by those members having the right to vote as outlined in paragraph 2 of this constitution. No member has more than one vote.

**7.2 Committee Meetings**

7.2.1 Any Committee Member may call a Committee Meeting.

7.2.2 The time, date and location of Committee Meetings must be posted on a committee member accessible web source, at least two working days in advance.

7.2.3 The agenda for Committee Meetings should be made available to committee members at the start of the meeting.

7.2.4 The quorum for all Committee Meetings shall be two thirds of all Officers who have a vote, or three Officers who have a vote, whichever is greater.

7.2.5 The committee must make available a summary of all committee activities to members upon request, or when the committee deems relevant.

**7.3 Annual General Meeting**

7.3.1 The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held during the designated election month, as defined by the LUU Activities Team.

7.3.2 In exceptional circumstances, with the agreement of the Development and Engagement Coordinator, the AGM will instead be held within 395 days of the previous AGM.

7.3.3 Notice of the AGM must be posted on the Club/Society LUU webpage or a member accessible web source, at least 10 working days in advance of the meeting.

7.3.4 The agenda for the AGM must be posted on the Club/Society LUU webpage or a member accessible web source at least seven days in advance of the meeting.

7.3.5 The items and order of business shall be determined by the committee, but must include:

* the Co-Chair’s report
* the Financial report
* Any Constitutional Amendments submitted
* Elections of committee members

7.3.6 The quorum for the AGM shall be either one third of all the Full Members or 20 Full Members, whichever is the lesser.

7.3.7 If an AGM is declared inquorate, it must adjourn to be reconvened within ten working days.

7.3.8 If a reconvened AGM is declared inquorate, the Club/Society shall report this to the Activities & Opportunities Officer who may authorise an inquorate AGM.

7.3.9 If requested by the Activities Executive, the Club/Society must submit the full agenda and minutes of their AGM to the Activities Executive.

 **7.4 Extraordinary General Meetings**

7.4.1 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called by either one third of all the Full Members or 20 full members, whichever is the lesser, and/or by a simple majority of the Committee.

7.4.2 Notice of the EGM, together with their agenda, shall be posted on the Club/Society LUU webpage or a member accessible web source within two working days of the meeting being called.

7.4.3 The agenda for the EGM shall be restricted to the motion or business for which the meeting was called.

7.4.4 The quorum for the EGM shall be either one third of all the full members or 20 full members, whichever is the lesser.

7.4.5 If an EGM is declared inquorate it may not proceed. If the EGM is declared inquorate, the Club/Society shall report this to the Activities & Opportunities Officer who may authorise an inquorate EGM.

7.4.6 The Club/Society must submit the full agenda and minutes of their EGM to the Activities Executive, if requested by the Activities & Opportunities Officer.

**8 General Administration and Finance**

**8.1 Constitution**

8.1.1 In case of dispute over a particular interpretation of this constitution, the Activities & Opportunities Officer will be the final arbiter.

 8.1.1.1 In the event a Group’s constitution is deemed invalid, the [Club & Society Model Constitution 2012/22](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_3qOxgp9G4AxsgqnCWHzXaV6ej5H8GU-XeZrr3aOD_0/edit) will instead be used as that Group’s constitution.

8.1.2 The assets or liabilities of the Club/Society shall remain with the Club/Society regardless of any changes to committee, group structure or constitution.

8.1.3 The Club/Society shall be a constituent part of LUU and thus subject to the rulings of Better Union Forum and the Board of Trustees.

8.1.4 In the event of dissolution or abolition of the Club/Society its assets will revert to LUU.

**8.2 Constitutional Amendments**

8.2.1 Constitutional amendments may be recommended by an Annual General Meeting, Extraordinary General Meeting, or by Referendum of the Club/Society.

8.2.2 Constitutional amendments may not come into force until they have been approved by the Activities & Opportunities Officer acting on behalf of the Student Executive and Activities Executive. For clarity, approval will be in the form of an email confirmation to the Core Officers of the society with the amended constitution as an attachment.

8.2.3 Proposed constitutional amendments must be published in the agenda for the appropriate General Meeting and cannot be moved under ‘Any Other Business’.

8.2.4 Constitutional amendments shall come into effect immediately after Activities & Opportunities Officer approval unless otherwise stated in the amendment.

**8.3 Administration and Finance**

8.3.1 The Club/Society must produce a detailed statement of accounts within 24 hours if requested by the Activities Executive.

8.3.2 The Core Officers shall accept full administrative and financial responsibility for the Club/Society.

8.3.3 Committee members may not receive financial payment or profit as a result of their position on the committee.

8.3.4 Committee members may be reimbursed for any reasonable expenditure on behalf of the Club/Society only after submitting a receipt to the Treasurer.

**8.4 Cash Office**

8.4.1 The Club/Society will have a bank account (or accounts) with the LUU Cash Office **only**.

8.4.2 At least two Core Officers’ signatures will be required to make payments from the Club/Society account.

8.4.3 The Club/Society will keep full, up-to-date accounts of its finances through the LUU Cash Office.

8.4.4 LUU Subsidies allocated to the Club/Society may not be spent on perishable goods such as food, drink or tobacco.

8.4.5 The Club/Society Subsidy and/or Grant account will be zeroed at the end of each academic year and the funds returned to LUU.

**9 Marketing and communications**

9.1 The Club/Society will at all times adhere to the LUU Data Privacy and Guidance for Clubs and Societies.

9.2 Gryphon Clubs will at all times adhere to The Branding Guidelines agreed by the Leeds Sport partnership.

**10 Complaints**

10.1 Any member has the right to raise a complaint to the Committee, relating to (but not limited to) the following;

10.1.1 The conduct of another member or members of the club or society (while participating in club/society activity)

10.1.2 The delivery of any club/society activity

10.1.3 Any decision taken which impacts on the overall activity of the club/society

10.2 Any member may also raise a complaint to the LUU Student Activities Team regarding the individual or group conduct of a club/society or their members. Complaints raised in this way will be referred to the Committee to handle.

10.3 The Committee should inform the LUU Student Activities Team of any complaints.

10.4 The Committee should work with the member who has raised the complaint to come to an informal resolution, following the LUU good practice guidelines. Resolution of complaints by the Committee should always be the first stage in any issue relating to the society.

10.5 If the Committee and the member who has raised the complaint are unable to come to an informal resolution, they must conduct a fair and impartial investigation. They must consult with the Student Activities Team Manager, or their nominee, before undertaking the investigation.

 10.5.1 The investigation process must follow the Good Practice Guidelines.

10.5.2 If the Committee decides to take disciplinary action as a result of an investigation following a complaint, they must consult the Student Activities Team Manager, or their nominee, at the earliest opportunity otherwise any subsequent decision will be treated as void.

10.5.3 Disciplinary action against a member may include (but is not limited to):

10.5.3.1 Temporary suspension from some or all activity

10.5.3.2 Requirement that the disciplined member issues an apology

10.5.3.3 Requirement that the disciplined member completes mandatory training to prevent an issue reoccurring

10.5.4 In more serious cases, the Committee may choose to permanently suspend a member from some or all activity, or permanently exclude that member from the society. This is covered in section 11 of this constitution.

10.5 Any member impacted by the outcome of a complaint managed by the Committee has the right to appeal the decision. The appeal should be made in writing to the Activities Executive, via the Activities & Opportunities Officer, and should be submitted within 14 days of the original decision.

10.6 If the complainant is unhappy with the Committee resolution to their complaint, they may escalate the issue formally to the Activities Executive.

**11 Suspension and Expulsion**

11.1 Any member, other than Ex-Officio Members, may be suspended or expelled from any or all rights, including membership, for any period by a decision of the Core Officers of the club/society, so long as the decision was made using the procedure outlined in this section.

11.2 The Club/Society Core Officers can suspend or expel any member of the group so long as they have taken explicit advice from the Student Activities Team Manager, or their nominee, *and* informed the individual affected of the reason/s for the decision in writing.

11.3 The Club/Society Core Officers must immediately notify the Activities & Opportunities Officer, in writing, of any suspensions or expulsions with a summary of the reason/s for the decision.

11.4 Suspended or expelled members may appeal a disciplinary decision so long as the request is submitted in writing to the Activities & Opportunities Officer within 14 days of being notified of this decision.

11.5 On receipt of a request for a review, the Activities & Opportunities Officer will:

* acknowledge receipt of the request as soon as reasonably possible;
* notify the Club/Society Core Officers and the Head of Student Activities that a review is taking place;
* if necessary consult with relevant parties regarding the original decision and may take into account new information;
* will, in discussion with the Activities Executive, decide whether to uphold, modify or over-turn the original decision and
* will inform both parties of the outcome of their decision within 14 days

11.6 If the Activities Executive uphold the decision to suspend or expel the member, the matter will be deemed as having been through an LUU disciplinary and appeal and will have no further rights to appeal under the Bye-Laws.

**12 Affiliation**

12.1 The committee shall seek approval from the membership before affiliating to the appropriate local Labour parties.

12.2 Any other affiliations shall be treated as policy unless presented as an amendment to this constitution.

**13 Policy**

13.1 Internal policy debate shall be encouraged and structured to be open and inclusive.

13.2 Leeds Labour Students is a student organisation and policy relating to student issues will take priority.

13.3 Policy shall be passed at a policy meeting that achieves a quorum of eight Full Members. Policy will be passed with a simple majority of those present at the meeting and eligible to vote.

13.4 Voting shall be by show of hands unless a secret ballot has previously been requested, and decisions will be made by simple majority by those members having the right to vote as outlined in paragraph 2 of this constitution. No member shall have more than one vote.

13.5 Policy will last for three calendar years from the date it is originally passed at a Policy Meeting.

13.6 Policy is passed at a policy meeting that is open to all members who may take part in debate, but where voting is only open to Full Members.

13.7 A policy document shall be drawn up and made available to all members.

13.8 A minimum of two policy meetings should take place in an academic year, responsibility for calling these meetings lies with the co-chairs.

13.9 Policy meetings may take any form as the committee decides, such as informal discussion or debates, however they must include the right of all Full Members to speak on the issue and vote.