



## Democracy Regulations

As amended and approved at the 2014 Edinburgh Autumn Conference (2/11/14).

### **Preamble**

Students for Cooperation Limited (SfC) is a federation of student co-operatives (a secondary coop) and a registered society number 32414 R under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

These regulations are supplementary to the registered company rules. Where there is disparity the company rules take precedent.

### **General Meetings**

1. The sovereign decision making body is a General Meeting (GM) of delegates from each respective member co-operative.
2. Quorum is four member co-ops or 50% of Member Co-ops, whichever is greater.
3. GMs shall aspire to reach consensus decisions.
4. Where consensus cannot be reached in a timely manner, the GM can move to a vote.
5. Each member co-op holds one vote.
  - 5.1. This vote shall be shared by the member co-op's two delegates.
6. Extraordinary resolutions require a formal vote, with a 75% majority in favour.
7. All other decisions reached by voting require a simple majority.
8. General Meetings can be held in person or electronically.
9. There shall be at least six General Meetings a year.

10. Unless dealing with sensitive personal information or confidential business information, General Meetings should be open and public to non-delegates.

## **Delegates**

11. Delegates vote on behalf of and shall reflect the opinions of their Member Co-op.
  - 11.1. Delegates can represent multiple cooperatives, but it is strongly preferable that delegates only represent one co-operative.
12. Delegates shall be elected through each Member Co-op's respective democratic structures.
  - 12.1. Ideally Member Co-ops shall elect delegates by a secret single transferable vote (STV) election of their entire membership.
13. Delegates can be mandated by their Member Co-op.
14. Delegates can be recalled at any point by their Member Co-op.
15. To ensure gender balance, each Member Co-op shall elect:
  - 15.1. One delegate who must self-define as a woman or as a non-binary gender.
  - 15.2. One delegate who shall be elected irrespective of their gender identity.

## **Membership**

16. Membership to Students for Cooperation shall be restricted to entities which satisfy all of the following:
  - 16.1. Are corporate bodies or unincorporated associations which abide by the International Cooperative Alliance's 1995 Statement of the Co-operative Identity.
  - 16.2. A simple majority of their members are students.
17. Aspiring members must submit an application for membership to a General Meeting.
  - 17.1. The application should explain who they are, how they feel they support the aims of SfC, how they want to support SfC as a Member and how they believe SfC will be able to support them.

- 17.2. This application must be submitted to SfC one month before the next GM in order to give all members time to read and formulate responses to it.
- 17.3. Aspiring members may then be invited to send a delegate to the next GM in order to answer any questions which members have, before a decision is made on their membership
18. Membership shall be terminated as per the Company Rules.
19. Members may be expelled at any GM via an Extraordinary Resolution should SfC agree that the Member is no longer suitable for membership, as per the Company Rules.

### **Affiliate Membership**

20. Affiliate membership is open to any corporate body, unincorporated association or person who supports the aims of Students for Cooperation.
21. Affiliate members have no right to vote in General Meetings.
22. Affiliate members can contribute to and take part in meetings and events; and receive copies of agendas, papers and minutes.
23. Aspiring affiliate members must submit an application for membership to a General Meeting.
  - 23.1. The application should explain who they are, how they feel they support the aims of SfC, how they want to support SfC as an Affiliate Member and how they believe SfC will be able to support them.
  - 23.2. This application must be submitted to SfC one month before the next GM in order to give all Member Co-ops time to read and formulate responses to it.
  - 23.3. Aspiring affiliate members may then be invited to send a delegate to the next GM in order to answer any questions which members have, before a decision is made on their affiliate membership
24. Affiliate Members may have affiliate membership terminated as per the relevant equivalent articles for Members in the Company Rules.

25. Affiliate Members may be expelled via an ordinary resolution at any GM should SfC agree that an organisation is no longer suitable for membership.

### **Conference**

26. Conferences shall feature a General Meeting of member co-ops.
27. All Conference goers who are not a delegate of a member co-op shall be free to take part in this meeting as a non-voting participant.
28. This meeting shall primarily focus on two core themes:
  - 28.1. Deciding on strategic aims Students for Cooperation shall work towards between then and the next conference.
  - 28.2. Reviewing the work of Students for Cooperation since the last conference.

### **Working Groups**

29. The General Meeting shall establish and confer power on to any Working Group that it deems fit to carry out the work of Students for Cooperation.
30. All acts and proceedings of Working Groups must be fully and promptly reported to all the member co-op delegates.
  - 30.1. These will be reported and recorded online and at General Meetings.