



National Conference of
University Professors

CONSTITUTION

1. Title

The title of the Conference shall be the *National Conference of University Professors*.

2. Objects

The objects of the Conference shall be:

- (i) to support university professors in carrying out their special responsibilities for the maintenance of academic standards;
- (ii) to provide a forum for discussion and a corporate voice on matters of concern to the nation's university system;
- (iii) to improve public perceptions about the work of universities; and
- (iv) to act as a means of collecting and disseminating information relevant to universities.

3. Membership

- 3.1 Membership of the Conference is open to all who hold, or have held, the title of "full professor" in a UK university.
- 3.2 Any member whose subscription is more than six months overdue, and who has been informed of this fact by the Treasurer, shall cease to be a member unless the Committee otherwise decide and the Committee's decision is endorsed at a General Meeting of the Conference.

4. Meeting

- 4.1 There shall be an Annual Assembly and such other Special Assemblies as may be called by the Committee or requested by at least 20 members. Any such request must be made in writing to the Secretary.
- 4.2 The purpose of the Assemblies shall be to discuss matters of concern, to formulate policy, and to conduct any other business that is considered to be appropriate by those members in attendance and which is in accordance with the objects of the Conference.

- 4.3 There shall be an Annual General Meeting which shall be held in the course of the Annual Assembly. Special General Meetings may be called by the Committee or requested by at least 20 members. Any such request must be made in writing to the Secretary.
- 4.4 The purpose of the General Meetings shall be to discuss and make decisions upon the way in which the business of the Conference is conducted.
- 4.5 All resolutions at Assemblies and General Meetings shall be carried by a simple majority of members voting except in the case of amendments to the provisions of this constitution which may only be carried by the vote of not less than two thirds of the members present and voting. Voting shall be by show of hands unless a resolution calling for a secret ballot is carried.
- 4.6 The Secretary shall give at least 56 days' notice in writing of any Assembly or General Meeting, and at least 28 days' notice in writing of any motion of major importance for resolution at an Assembly or General Meeting.
- 4.7 Any member wishing to propose a motion of major importance for resolution at an Assembly or General Meeting must notify the Secretary in writing at least 42 days in advance.
- 4.8 Any motion of major importance proposed at an Assembly or General Meeting may be resolved by postal ballot and shall be carried by a simple majority of members voting except in the case of amendments to the provisions of this constitution which may only be carried by the vote of not less than two thirds of the members voting.
- 4.9 The President shall decide what constitutes a motion of major importance.

5. Duties and Responsibilities of the Council

- 5.1 The Council shall act on behalf of the Conference in accordance with the objects of the Conference and with the policies agreed from time to time at the Assemblies.
- 5.2 The Council shall use its discretion regarding the publishing of documents and statements.

6. Composition and Election of the Council

- 6.1 The membership of the Council shall be:
- (i) the President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer and the Secretary;
 - (ii) nine ordinary members,
 - (iii) up to three other members co-opted by the Council.

- 6.2 Elections to the Council shall be at the AGM. In the event of a tie, the President shall have an additional casting vote.
- 6.3 Nominations for membership of the Council and for the posts of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be made in writing to the Secretary at least 42 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting.
- 6.4 The President shall be elected to serve for a period of two years. The President may be eligible for immediate re-election.
- 6.5 The Vice-President shall be elected to serve for a period of two years.
- 6.6 The Secretary shall be re-elected to serve for a period of two years. The Secretary shall be eligible for re-election.
- 6.7 The Treasurer shall be elected to serve for a period of two years. The Treasurer shall be eligible for re-election.
- 6.8 Ordinary Members shall be elected to serve for a period of three years.
- 6.9 Up to three other members may be co-opted by the Council on an annual basis. A co-opted member may not serve more than three consecutive years as a co-opted member.
- 6.10 The Council may co-opt to fill any casual vacancy which may arise between two successive Annual General Meetings. The term of office of any co-opted member shall expire at the first Annual General Meeting following co-option. A period of service to fill a casual vacancy may be additional to any permitted period of service specified in this constitution.

7. Funds

- 7.1 The Treasurer shall present an audited statement of accounts to the Annual General Meeting.
- 7.2 The annual subscription shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting and shall fall due on the 1st January of every year.
- 7.3 A professor who becomes a member after the 1st July in any year shall not be required to pay another subscription until twelve months after the 1st January of the following year.