

B.C. UNIVERSITIES' MODEL PARLIAMENT SOCIETY CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY

Article One – Definitions

In this Constitution and By-Laws, the following words and phrases have the following meanings:

“Party Caucus” means a body of Members of the Society that are affiliated with one of the political parties recognized in the By-Laws.

“Moot Parliament” means a model parliament held by the Society and designated by the Board of Directors as a moot parliament for the purposes of this Constitution.

“House of Commons” or “House” means the assembly of House Members at a moot parliament.

“Senate” means the assembly of Senate Members at a moot parliament.

Article Two – Name

The name of the Society shall be the "Universities Model Parliament Society of British Columbia," hereinafter referred to as "the Society".

Article Three – Purpose

The purpose of the Society shall be:

- A. To encourage political, social and educational understanding and appreciation, among post-secondary students, of our common political and parliamentary system.
- B. To conduct "moot parliaments" so that post-secondary students may be familiarized with the actual workings of Parliament.
- C. To conduct events, ancillary to those "moot parliaments" so that post-secondary students may meet others having similar interest in our common political and parliamentary system.

The Society shall not function in an educational capacity or hold itself out to be an educational institution. This provision is not amendable.

Article Four – Affiliation

The Society may not directly affiliate itself with any political party or any other Society or Organization.

BY-LAWS OF THE SOCIETY

Section One – Membership

- 1.01 All Members of the Society shall be subject to and governed by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society.
- 1.02 There shall be four categories of membership in the Society:
 - A. House Member
 - B. Senate Member
 - C. Honourary Life Member
 - D. Patrons of the Society
- 1.03 All Members are deemed to be in good standing of the Society unless:
 - A. they are in arrears with respect to any dues, fees and levies set by the Board of Directors and;
 - B. their membership has not been revoked or suspended under a provision of these By-Laws.
- 1.04 Membership in the Society is non-transferable.

B.C. UNIVERSITIES' MODEL PARLIAMENT SOCIETY CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Section Two – House Membership

- 2.01 House Members are those Members whose names are submitted to the Board of Directors from time to time by the caucus of a Party recognized under Appendix Two of these By-Laws or under Section 9. There may not be any independent House Members. House Members remain eligible for membership provided that a party caucus maintains their name on its current list of House Members.
- 2.02 A party caucus may, in its absolute discretion and according to its own criteria, practices and customs, refuse membership or grant membership to any person it wishes, at any time, provided said person is not otherwise disqualified from membership under these bylaws.
- 2.03 House Members in good standing of the Society shall be entitled to participate at all General Meetings and to take part in any Society activity except for sessions in the Senate unless they have been appointed a Senate Member.

Section Three – Senate Membership

- 3.01 Senate Members are those Members whose names appear on the Roll of the Senate maintained by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may enter a name on the Roll of the Senate provided that:
- A. at any time after January 1st, 2013, the person has served at least two (2) years at a Moot Parliament, or
 - B. has served at least two (2) years as a House Member and is approved for Senate Membership by a majority of vote at a General Meeting.
- 3.02 In special circumstances, the President and the President of the Senate may grant temporary Senate Membership to individuals they deem fit. Such memberships expire at the next General Meeting of the Society.
- 3.03 Senate Members in good standing of the Society, provided they have participated in the most recent sitting of the Senate at a moot parliament session, shall be entitled to participate at all General Meetings and to take part in any Society activity except for sessions in the House of Commons unless they have been elected a House Member.
- 3.04 Senate Members may choose to affiliate with a party caucus if said caucus will accept them as Members of the party caucus. However, membership in a party caucus is not a prerequisite for Senate Membership.

Section Four – Honourary Life Membership and Patrons of the Society

- 4.01 Honourary Life Members are those persons who have served as Governor General at a moot parliament session, served as Speaker of the House of Commons or the Senate for five (5) years, or any other person who in the opinion of more than three quarters of the Board of Directors has made an outstanding contribution to the Society. Honourary Life Members shall be granted membership in the Order of Canada with the suffix of "O.C." for the purpose of House and Senate proceedings. The Board of Directors may not appoint more than two Honourary Life Members in any calendar year.
- 4.02 Patrons of the Society are those persons who have agreed to act as Patrons on the unanimous invitation of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall invite the current Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia to be known as Honourary Patron in Chief. In addition to the Lieutenant Governor, the Board of Directors may not appoint more than one Patron of the Society in any calendar year.

B.C. UNIVERSITIES' MODEL PARLIAMENT SOCIETY CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

- 4.03 Honourary Life Members and Patrons of the Society shall not be entitled to vote at meetings of the Society unless they are also House Members or Senate Members in good standing of the Society.

Section Five – Conditions under Which Membership Shall Cease

- 5.01 A membership may be revoked by a majority of members at a General Meeting, or by a vote of three quarters of the Board of Directors at a validly constituted directors meeting, provided that the Member has, in the opinion of the meeting:
- A. Violated the Constitution and By-Laws; or
 - B. Done some act to bring the Society into disrepute; or
 - C. Given other sufficient cause whereby his/her continued membership may bring harm to the Society; or
 - D. Infringe on policies adopted by the Society listed in Appendix Three.
- 5.02 A membership shall be automatically suspended when:
- A. the Member fails to pay any dues, fees or levies assessed to his/her membership; or
 - B. the Member is a House Member and he/she is not recognised as a member of any party caucus.
- 5.03 A membership which has been suspended under Section 5.02 shall be automatically reinstated once the Board of Directors is satisfied that the member has paid all overdue dues, fees and levies, or that the Member has been accepted by a party caucus.
- 5.04 A former Member whose membership was revoked under Section 5.01 may not be admitted to membership in the future except by a motion passed by a three-fourths (3/4) majority of the Board of Directors.

Section Six – Dues, Fees and Levies

- 6.01 Dues, fees and levies for membership in the Society shall be set by the Board of Directors.
- 6.02 There shall be no dues for Honourary Life Members or Patrons of the Society.
- 6.03 Benefits accruing from the payment of any dues, fees and/or levies shall not be transferable.

Section Seven – "Moot Parliament" Sessions

- 7.01 A "moot parliament", including a "House of Commons" session and a "Senate" session shall be held at least once a year.
- 7.02 The time and place of the "moot parliament" shall be set by the Board of Directors.
- 7.03 The Board of Directors shall appoint the following:
- A. the Governor General of Canada,
 - B. the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada,
 - C. the Speaker of the House of Commons,
 - D. the Speaker of the Senate,
 - E. the Clerk of the Parliament.
- 7.04 The Speaker of the House of Commons and the Speaker of the Senate may be the same person.
- 7.05 The Speakers of the House of Commons and Senate are deemed Members in good standing of the Society with the associated rights, privileges and responsibilities except that they shall not be liable for any dues, fees or levies for the time they hold those offices.

B.C. UNIVERSITIES' MODEL PARLIAMENT SOCIETY CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

- 7.06 The Speaker of the House of Commons or the Senate may be removed from office upon:
- A. a unanimous vote of non-confidence in the chair by the Members of the House of Commons or Senate; or
 - B. a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- 7.07 House and Senate Members shall abide by the Standing Orders of the Society and all rules of order which shall be ruled upon the Speaker of the House of Commons or Senate, and his/her decision shall be final.
- 7.08 To expedite the business of the "moot parliament" session:
- A. motions of 'non-confidence' in the Government shall not be entertained.
 - B. the Government shall not have the right to dissolve the "House of Commons".
- 7.09 The Parliament shall be deemed to automatically have been dissolved after the last sitting of each "moot parliament".

Section Eight – Elections for and Representation in "Moot Parliaments"

- 8.01 The Speaker of the House of Commons shall be the Chair of the Elections Committee and Chief Electoral Officer for the purposes of registration. Should the Speaker of the House of Commons be unable or unwilling to perform this duty, it shall then fall upon the Speaker of the Senate. Should the Speaker of the Senate be unable or unwilling to perform this duty, it shall then fall upon the President of the Senate. The Clerk of the Parliament shall be the Registrar for the purposes of registration.
- 8.02 The Board of Directors shall constitute the Elections Committee.
- 8.03 Registration shall occur at a time and date established by the Elections Committee.
- 8.04 The number of seats available in the "House of Commons" and the "Senate" shall be equal to the number of seats in the Legislature of British Columbia, minus one.
- 8.05 During registration, the Elections Committee shall:
- A. adjudicate on any irregularities brought to its attention
 - B. determine the composition of the "House of Commons" on a proportional basis, with the following limitations:
 - 1. no political party may register more than forty five percent (45%) of the total number of seats in the "House of Commons"
 - 2. no political party may register less than twelve percent (12%) of the total number of seats in the "House of Commons".
- 8.06 The 2017-2018 Board of Directors shall consult on a new system for distributing seats in the House of Commons for UMP 2018, subject to the formula contained in Section 8.05 b) and subject to all By-Laws. No proposed system is approved unless adopted by a 3/4 vote of the Board of Directors, and only if the 3/4 vote includes at least one party representative from each party listed in Section 10.01(g). If no new system is approved by July 9th, 2017, then Section 8.06, as it exists on January 6th, 2017, is automatically re-instated in its entirety.
- Editor's note: the Board of Directors unanimously adopted an electoral system for UMP 2018, which forms the basis of the proposed amendment to the Bylaws.*
- 8.07 Should the number of Senate Members on the Roll of the Senate exceed the total number of seats in the Senate at a moot parliament; seats will be made available in terms of priority to those Senate Members who first pay dues, fees and levies.

B.C. UNIVERSITIES' MODEL PARLIAMENT SOCIETY CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Section Nine – Political Parties

- 9.01 To be recognized by the Society as a political party and able to participate in a "moot parliament", the political party must:
- A. be registered as a federal political party in Canada;
 - B. have attained no less than five percent (5%) of the national vote in the latest federal election;
 - C. have Members of Parliament elected in the last federal election; and
 - D. have a registered club at each post-secondary institution named in Appendix One.
- 9.02 Any political party which meets the criteria listed above may apply to be listed in Appendix Two of these By-Laws. Upon receiving such application, the Board of Directors shall consider the request and may add the party to Appendix Two on a vote of at least two thirds (2/3) of the Members present at a meeting of the Board of Directors.
- 9.03 Should any political party listed under Appendix Two fail to meet any of the requirements listed in Section 9.01, it can be removed by a 3/4 vote of the Board of Directors.

Section Ten – Governance of the Society

- 10.01 The governance of the Society shall be vested in a Board of Directors which shall consist of:
- a) the President,
 - b) the Vice President,
 - c) the Secretary,
 - d) the Treasurer,
 - e) the President of the Senate,
 - f) the Past President,
 - g) representatives from each of the political parties listed in Appendix Two.
- 10.02 Members of the Board of Directors must be Members in good standing of the Society.
- 10.03 The general duties of the Board of Directors shall include the following:
- a) enforcing the rules and regulations of the Society,
 - b) making and executing contracts in the name of the Society,
 - c) allocating funds for the support of social and/or academic activities within the context of the Society,
 - d) other administrative powers necessary for the general governance of the Society.
- 10.04 The duties of the President shall be to:
- a) preside at all Board of Directors and General Meetings of the Society,
 - b) prepare an agenda for each Board of Directors and General Meeting,
 - c) perform any other duties as required or requested by the Board of Directors.
- 10.05 The duties of the Vice President shall be to:
- a) assume the duties of the President in case of absence, resignation or incapacity,
 - b) act for or assist any other Member of the Board of Directors in the performance of their duties,
 - c) keep records of the membership of the Society,
- 10.06 The duties of the Secretary shall be to:
- a) record, distribute and maintain copies of the minutes of all Board of Directors and General Meetings of the Society,
 - b) maintain complete and permanent files for the Society,
 - c) perform any other duties as required or requested by the Board of Directors.

B.C. UNIVERSITIES' MODEL PARLIAMENT SOCIETY CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

10.07 The duties of the Treasurer shall be to:

- a) maintain appropriate financial records for the Society,
- b) draw up and present financial statements of the Society for each Annual General Meeting and as required under the Societies' Act of British Columbia,
- c) perform any other duties as required or requested by the Board of Directors.

10.08 The duties of the President of the Senate shall be to:

- a) organize all aspects of the "Senate" session,
- b) chair the Senate Committee.

10.09 The duties of the representatives of the political party representatives shall be to:

- a) act as an advocate for her/his respective political party,
- b) collect all materials from her/his political party as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.

10.10 Directors at Large may be appointed by the Board of Directors by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote.

Section Eleven – Elections of Board of Directors

11.01 Members of the Board of Directors shall serve a one year (1) term.

11.02 The following positions shall be elected by Members in good standing of the Society:

- a) the President,
- b) the Vice-President,
- c) the Secretary,
- d) the Treasurer.

11.03 The President of the Senate shall be elected by Senate Members according to the practices and customs adopted by those Members.

11.04 Representatives of each political party shall be elected by their respective political party by their own practices and customs, in advance of the Annual General Meeting.

11.05 Candidates for the positions listed in Section 11.02 must be nominated by two House Members in good standing of the Society at an Annual General Meeting.

11.06 Voting for candidates for positions listed in Section 11.02 must be by secret ballot.

11.07 Candidates for the Board of Directors must win by a simple majority of Members present.

11.08 In case of a tie, a coin toss shall resolve the tie.

11.09 No Member may hold more than one position on the Board of Directors at any one time.

11.10 The Board of Directors shall appoint a Member in good standing of the Society, to fill any vacancies on the Board of Directors.

Section Twelve – Committees

12.01 The Board of Directors shall establish the following standing committees:

- a) the Elections Committee which shall be responsible for registration.
- b) the Queen's Printer and Order Paper Committee which shall be responsible producing the annual Order Paper and Member Handbook.
- c) the Senate Committee which shall be responsible for the organization of the "Senate" session.
- d) any other committee the Board of Directors deems necessary.

B.C. UNIVERSITIES' MODEL PARLIAMENT SOCIETY CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

- 12.02 Unless otherwise stated in these By-Laws, the Board of Directors shall appoint a chairperson for each committee.
- 12.03 Unless otherwise stated in these By-Laws, the Board of Directors may appoint any Member of the Society to any committee.

Section Thirteen – Removal of Officers

- 13.01 Any Member of the Board of Directors may be removed from office by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the Board of Directors, upon establishment of sufficient cause
- 13.02 Any Member of the Board of Directors, with the exception of party representatives, may be removed from office by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Members present at a General Meeting of the Society, upon establishment of sufficient cause.

Section Fourteen – Finances of the Society

- 14.01 Funds of the Society shall be all monies which accrue to the Society from fees, operations of the Society, gifts and bequests of the Society.
- 14.02 The Board of Directors must maintain an account in the name of the Society at a financial institution.
- 14.03 The fiscal year of the Society begins each January 1 and ends the following December 31.
- 14.04 The Society may raise funds through any method approved by the Board of Directors.
- 14.05 The signing officers of the Society, of which two shall be required to sign any financial instrument or document, shall be:
 - a) the President,
 - b) the Treasurer,
 - c) the Past President,
 - d) the Registrar.

Section Fifteen – Meetings of the Society

- 15.01 There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Society held once every calendar year. Where practicable, the meeting shall be held on the same day as a moot parliament session.
- 15.02 Sufficient Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given when a representative of each political party listed in Appendix Two has been given notice, and when Notice of the Meeting is posted on an internet web site operated by the Society.
- 15.03 The agenda for each Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be:
 - a) adoption of the minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting,
 - b) adoption of reports from the Board of Directors,
 - c) election of officers,
 - d) any other business required by the Societies' Act of British Columbia,
 - e) any other business the Board of Directors has deemed necessary.
- 15.04 A General Meeting, other than the Annual General Meeting, of the Society may be called by:
 - a) the President, or
 - b) a majority vote of the Board of Directors, or
 - c) a petition signed by ten percent (10%) of House Members in good standing of the Society.

B.C. UNIVERSITIES' MODEL PARLIAMENT SOCIETY CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

- 15.05 Proper notice of the time, date and place of a General Meeting shall be no less than fourteen (14) days before the General Meeting and in a manner deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.
- 15.06 While every reasonable attempt shall be made to notify Members of a General Meeting, the non-receipt of notice shall not invalidate any proceedings at a duly constituted General Meeting.
- 15.07 Every Member in good standing of the Society shall be entitled to vote at any General Meeting.
- 15.08 Proxy voting shall not be allowed.
- 15.09 A quorum of at least thirty (30) House Members in good standing of the Society shall be required to transact any business at a General Meeting.
- 15.10 In the event that an Annual General Meeting of the Society fails to achieve quorum within thirty (30) minutes of the time set for its being called to order, it shall be declared adjourned until the same time and place on the following day at which time the Members present shall constitute quorum.
- 15.11 In the event that any other General Meeting fails to achieve quorum within one (1) hour of the time set for its being called to order, that meeting shall be terminated.
- 15.12 The Board of Directors shall meet at the pleasure of the President, or by the direction of four (4) Members of the Board of Directors.
- 15.13 The quorum for a Board of Directors meeting shall be six (6) Members.
- 15.14 Robert's Rules of Order shall be used at all meetings of the Society.

Section Sixteen – Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws

- 16.01 The Speaker of the House of Commons shall interpret and rule on any dispute or ambiguity relating to the Constitution and/or By-Laws of the Society; failing her/him the Past President. Rulings shall be binding upon successors.
- 16.02 Amendments to this Constitution and By-Laws may only take place at an Annual General Meeting of the Society.
- 16.03 Amendments to the Constitution shall require a unanimous vote.
- 16.04 Amendments to the By-Laws shall require a two thirds (2/3) majority vote.
- 16.05 Notice of intent to move amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society must be submitted, in writing, to the Board of Directors no less than forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- 16.06 Proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society must be distributed at least one (1) day before the Annual General Meeting. Delivery can be effected by distribution to the representatives of each political party, or by general distribution to all Members participating in a moot parliament.
- 16.07 Notwithstanding any other section of these By-Laws, the Board of Directors may amend the By-Laws, but not the Constitution, if the following criteria are met:
 - a) the amendment is limited in scope to changes which would bring the By-Laws into compliance with the *Society Act* of British Columbia; and
 - b) the amendment is first approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors; and
 - c) the text of the amendment is made available online for public comment from Members; and

B.C. UNIVERSITIES' MODEL PARLIAMENT SOCIETY CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

d) thirty (30) days after the text of the amendment has been made available, all Members of the Board of Directors must agree in writing to the amendment, either in its original form or amended form based on public comment.

APPENDIX ONE – POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

The following post-secondary institutions, as set out in Section 9.01 of the By-Laws are:

- a) Simon Fraser University
- b) University of British Columbia
- c) University of Victoria

APPENDIX TWO – POLITICAL PARTIES

The following political parties have been approved by the Board of Directors for participation in the "moot parliament", as set out in Section 9.03 of the By-Laws are:

- a) the Conservative Party of Canada (CPC)
- b) the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC)
- c) the New Democratic Party of Canada (NDPC)

APPENDIX THREE – POLICIES

The following policies, as set out in Section 5.01 of the By-Laws are:

- a) Harassment Policy
- b) Social Media Policy
- c) Two-Strike Policy
- d) Privacy Policy