

British Association For Irish Studies

Constitution

1. Name
 - 1.1 The name of this Association shall be "The British Association For Irish Studies".
2. Objectives

The British Association For Irish Studies ("the Association") exists:

 - 2.1 To encourage teaching, research and writing in Irish Studies, to the public benefit, by establishing a means of communication between those interested in Irish Studies in all disciplines and by producing and distributing generally materials which will assist in the development of Irish Studies.
In furtherance of the foregoing objects, but not further or otherwise the Association shall have the following powers:-
 - 2.2 To develop and improve resources available in Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Irish Studies;
 - 2.3 To encourage links with and exchanges between educational institutions in Great Britain and Ireland.
 - 2.4 The Association is a non-political and non-sectarian body. In order to maintain the essential objectives of the Association, Members involved in political or social action are not permitted to use the name of the British Association For Irish Studies in support of their activities. Non-observance of this clause will be held to invalidate Membership.
3. Membership
 - 3.1 Membership of the Association shall be open to anyone with a bona fide interest in Irish studies.
 - 3.2 Members must pay the annual dues at the rate recommended by the Executive Committee and ratified by the Membership.
 - 3.3 Members failing to pay dues for one year automatically forfeit the rights and benefits of Membership of the Association.
4. Officers
 - 4.1 The Association shall have an Executive Committee.
 - 4.2 The Officers of the Association shall be:
A Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary, a Conference Secretary and a Treasurer.
 - 4.3 The Executive Committee shall include the Officers specified in 4.2 above, together with the Editor of the Newsletter of the Association, eight other elected Members of the Association and two representatives from each of the advisory sub-committees referred to in 4.7 below chosen by the Members of those Advisory Sub-

Committees.

- 4.4 The quorum for Executive Committee Meetings shall be seven elected and/or coopted Members of that Committee.
- 4.5 The Executive Committee may co-opt up to four additional Members with full voting rights and appoint additional Officers as may be deemed necessary.
- 4.6 The Executive Committee is responsible for formulating the policy of the Association. Members are encouraged to suggest policies and programmes to the Executive Committee. Policies shall not be accepted or adopted which would conflict with the objectives of the Association as defined in 2. above or have the effect of the Association ceasing to be a charity in law.
- 4.7 The Executive Committee is responsible for arranging the dates and locations for the Annual Meetings of the Association.
- 4.8 The Executive Committee shall have the power to constitute advisory sub-committees and shall initially constitute advisory sub-committees to advise on Irish Studies in higher education, further and continuing education and compulsory education. Advisory sub-committees shall be convened initially by a person identified by the Executive Committee. Convenors shall keep minutes of all meetings and shall submit approved minutes to the Executive Committee. The majority of Members of sub-committees should be involved in the relevant level of education.
- 4.9 The Executive Committee has the power to appoint the Editorial Board of any Journal, 'Proceedings, Newsletter and any other publications of the Association.
- 4.10 The Executive Committee is responsible for supervising Association elections.

5. Trustees

- 5.1 The Association at its first Annual General Meeting shall appoint three Trustees. The Trustees shall have the power to appoint from time to time and as necessary further or replacement Trustees. Except in exceptional circumstances there shall be not less than two Trustees in post at any time.

6. Elections

- 6.1 Elections for Officers and Members of the Executive Committee shall be held every two years, not more than four months before the relevant Annual General meeting and not less than six weeks preceding it by a postal ballot of all paid-up Members. The Executive Committee shall, by means of a circular letter to all Members, request nominations for the posts detailed in 4.2 and 4.3 above not less than six weeks before the date on which it is proposed to distribute ballot papers.

Members wishing to stand for office must be nominated and seconded by current Members of the Association and at the time of nomination and seconding, shall signify willingness to take office if elected and supply a brief curriculum vitae in writing to the Secretary or other designated Returning Officer for circulation with ballot papers. A panel of three Scrutineers shall be appointed by the Executive Committee to observe the opening of ballot returns and the counting of ballots. No election shall be valid without the presence of at least two duly appointed Scrutineers at the opening and counting of ballots.

6.2 The quorum for the Annual General meeting shall be thirty or 10% of the paid-up Members of the Association whichever is the greater.

7. Classes of Membership

Membership of the Association shall normally be for individuals.

7.1 The Association shall have three classes of Member: Waged, Unwaged and Corporate.

7.2 Members of the Association who are students shall pay dues at the same rate as Unwaged Members.

7.3 Waged and Unwaged Members shall enjoy equal status and rights in Association business and, in particular, shall be entitled to nominate and second nominations, and to stand for election to, the posts detailed in 4.2 and 4.3 above.

7.4 Corporate Membership shall carry entitlement to one vote in Association elections and the right to nominate and second nominations for the posts detailed in 4.2 and 4.3 above.

7.5 No person under the age of 18 years shall be entitled to serve as an officer of the Executive Committee or vote, but shall be entitled to attend meetings in an advisory capacity.

7.6 The vote of a Corporate Member shall be exercised on behalf of that Corporate Member by a person who shall be from time to time identified by the Corporate Member to the Chairperson and Secretary of the Association.

7.7 No Corporate Member or the person identified by that Corporate Member as its representative shall be eligible for Office within the Association save only if the identified representative is a Member in her/his own right.

8. Meetings

The Association will hold an Annual General Meeting and may hold other Meetings as and when deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee.

9. Adoption and Amendment of Constitution

- 9.1 Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed at Annual General Meetings of the Association provided that notice is given in writing to the Secretary not less than four weeks before the Annual General Meeting.
- 9.2 Amendments, properly notified and put to an Annual General Meeting, shall be debated and if approved by a simple majority of those present shall be submitted to all Members of the Association for their approval in a postal ballot. Written statements in support of the amendment(s) shall be supplied to the Secretary or designated Returning Officer for circulation to all Members with the ballot papers and opposing statements shall also be accepted and circulated. No amendment may be accepted which would have the effect of the Association ceasing to be a charity in law or shall conflict with the Objectives of the Association as stated in 2. above.

Definitions

1. Member means a Member or Corporate Member of the British Association For Irish Studies within the terms defined in 7. above;
2. Corporate Member shall include both incorporated and unincorporated associations
3. Members in 6. above and in 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5 and 7.6 above shall mean all currently paid up Members as certified by the Treasurer and notified to the Executive Committee.
