

Bristol University Conservative Association (BUCA) Constitution

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1. Name

- 1.1 The Society's name shall be the **“Bristol University Conservative Association”**, or by abbreviation, **“BUCA”**, referred to henceforth and herein as **“BUCA”**.

2. Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 To raise awareness of Politics and specifically Conservative Party policies and conservative philosophical ideas and political views, at the University of Bristol, for the education and edification of Bristol Students, and through doing so, inspiring and increasing interest in and membership of the Conservative Party of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- 2.2 To create this awareness, and to inspire and increase this interest and membership, through planning events such as invited speakers, distributing informative literature and generating beneficial publicity, and inspiring rigorous debate about political issues in the Bristol University Student body.
- 2.3 To represent conservative students, that is, those students who are members of the Conservative Party of Great Britain, or who are of a conservative political philosophical disposition at Bristol University, and provide them with access to educational events, informative literature and external opportunities for greater education and valuable political contacts, as well as a social setting within which they may discuss conservative politics and philosophy.
- 2.4 To initiate and facilitate debate about issues in British domestic and international politics with a view to providing an awareness of the perspective and position(s) of the Conservative Party, conservative philosophy and Conservative politicians on said issues.

- 2.5 To expose the fallacies and intellectual errors in Leftist thought and provide active opposition to such foolish pursuits, whenever and wherever they lurk.
- 2.6 To provide the membership with an active and efficient committee.
- 2.7 To promote close links with the local Conservative Association and the Conservative Party
- 2.8 BUCA shall seek to abide by the University of Bristol Union's (referred to henceforth and herein as "UBU") *Society Rules and Regulations* and *Equal Opportunities and Harassment Policies*.

3. Membership

- 3.1 Ordinary membership of BUCA will be open to all members of the UBU in accordance with Section 3.a.i of the UBU's *Society Rules and Regulation*, (referred to henceforth and herein as "UBU-SRR") by application in writing to the Secretary.
- 3.2 As well as Ordinary Members (matriculated students of the University of Bristol) BUCA shall have Associate members. This is open to anyone interested in the aims and objectives of BUCA, which does not classify as an ordinary member. (i.e. former members no longer at the University).
- 3.3 Patron(s) or Honorary members (provided that they are of some status in relation to the aims of the Association) may be appointed at the discretion of the BUCA Committee either for life or for a specified period of time.
- 3.4 The Secretary shall keep a list of all members, differentiating between Ordinary and Associate Members. Members, and Associates in particular, should be contacted yearly to ensure their membership does not expire without a reminder to renew.
- 3.5 Any member may resign from BUCA by presenting their resignation in writing to the Secretary.
- 3.6 No member of BUCA may in any way act publicly contrary to this Constitution, its aims and objectives, its tenets, or its expressed values. This also excludes "entryism" (i.e. the deliberate attempt by a member of an opposing political group to infiltrate BUCA and attempt to subvert it from within).
- 3.7 Only ordinary members of BUCA may sit on the BUCA Committee or vote in AGM's.

4. Code of Conduct

- 4.1 No member of BUCA may act in violently to any other person.
- 4.2 No member of BUCA may act abusively or use abusive language towards any other member.
- 4.3 No member of the BUCA may act in a way that is deliberately and explicitly prejudiced and discriminatory towards any other person. Common sense shall prevail over the current fashions of political-correctness.
- 4.4 No member of BUCA may write or publish unwarranted *ad hominem* (i.e. personal) attacks on any other person.
- 4.5 No member of BUCA may act in a way that brings shame and embarrassment to BUCA.

- 4.6 No member of BUCA may, in any way, act publicly contrary to this Constitution, its aims and objectives, its tenets, or its expressed values. This includes the act of “entryism” (i.e. the deliberate attempt by a member of an opposing political group to infiltrate BUCA and attempt to subvert it from within).

5. Subscriptions and Finance

- 5.1 A membership fee is required from all BUCA members, fixed at the discretion of the BUCA Committee, but must be no less than that prescribed by the Student Activities Committee (SAC).
- 5.2 UBU members shall receive no direct or indirect payment, except for legitimate expenses incurred in connection with BUCA’s business.
- 5.3 The Treasurer is responsible for the collection of subscriptions and shall keep proper accounts and submit them to the SAC if prescribed by the Union (Section 3.a.iv. UBU-SRR)
- 5.4 BUCA shall not use any grant for any purpose other than that for which it was made, unless the change is agreed in advance by the Union Treasurer or by SAC. (Section 3.a.v of UBU-SRR)
- 5.5 The Treasurer shall make available for scrutiny the annual accounts of BUCA to its members at the AGM.
- 5.6 The Chairman, Treasurer, or any other officer entitled to sign cheques and other instruments of payment, should be members of the UBU.

6. BUCA Officials

- 6.1 A democratically elected BUCA Committee shall be the executive decision making body of BUCA. This committee will have the authority to take policy decisions, general or financial for BUCA, doing so at BUCA Committee Meetings (BCM’s).
- 6.2 The BUCA Committee will consist of the following officers who shall be full members of the UBU:
- Chairman
 - Deputy Chairman
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - External Relations Officer
 - Social Secretary
 - Publicity Officer
- 6.3 The Officers of BUCA shall have the power to create and dissolve at their discretion any other positions on the BUCA Committee; subject to a majority vote by the Officers of BUCA by show of hands at BCM’s.
- 6.4 The affairs of BUCA shall be conducted by the aforementioned BUCA Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- 6.5 The BUCA Committee will serve for one complete academic year, from the official end of the Spring Semester to the official beginning of the Easter Semester, although

- if any BUCA Committee member is either suspended or expelled by the Committee under Disciplinary Procedures laid down in Section 9 of this Constitution, they then forfeit their position on the BUCA Committee, and an EGM must be called as soon as possible by the Chairman to replace this Committee member and fill their position.
- 6.6 Quoracy for BCM's shall be set at 70% of Committee posts filled, where either the Chairman or Vice Chairman must be in attendance.
 - 6.7 Minutes of Committee meetings shall be taken and made available to all members of BUCA on written request from the BUCA Secretary.

7. General Meetings

- 7.1 There shall be an AGM once per annum, and this shall be held in an evening of Week 20 (last week of the Spring Semester).
- 7.2 Notices of such meetings must be published in BUCA's newsletters, website, or emailed to all members at least seven days beforehand, together with the Agenda.
- 7.3 Quorum of the AGM shall be set at twice the Committee size, plus one
- 7.4 An Emergency General Meeting (EGM) may be called by 10% of the membership of BUCA by written application to the Secretary. An EGM shall be called within three weeks and at least 7 days notice shall be given to members through the usual channels.

8. Election

- 8.1 Elections shall be held at the AGM to elect officers of the BUCA Committee for the following session.
- 8.2 There shall be provision for by-elections to be held at an EGM in October should there be vacant committee posts; or if there is insufficient demand, individuals may be appointed at the discretion of the BUCA Committee.
- 8.3 Any restrictions on who can stand must be stated – note that such restrictions must not contravene the UBU's *Equal Opportunities and Harassment Policy*.
- 8.4 The Chair (ordinarily Secretary of BUCA) will instruct prospective BUCA Committee candidates to leave the room whilst members cast their vote.
- 8.5 Voting decisions shall be determined by a simple show of hands.

9. Disciplinary Procedure

- 9.1 The BUCA Committee shall, through carried motion in a BCM have the authority to suspend membership of any member of BUCA temporarily, or expel any member permanently, if said member violates BUCA's Code of Conduct as laid out in Section 4 of this Constitution.
- 9.2 The Procedure for suspension or permanent exclusion of any member is as follows:
 - 9.2.1 Normatively, it is the Chairman who must, in a specially organised BCM for these proceedings, describe the reported and witnessed negative behaviour of a member (or members) to the BUCA Committee, providing evidence that may be considered

- sufficient to verify the behaviour took place (i.e. through reliable witness testimony to this). Otherwise, in special circumstances another BUCA Committee Member may do any of this if they so wish, independently of the Chairman.
- 9.2.2** The member or members accused of negative behaviour must be invited to the BCM to defend themselves and their actions, and to be given the opportunity to defend the charges brought against them if they so desire.
- 9.2.3** Reliable witness testimony must consist of proof that the said member acted in a public and explicit way against the Code of Conduct as expressed in Section 4 of this Constitution. If the negative behaviour described consists in fact only of privately made comments or isolated incidents of bad behaviour, this should not be taken as evidence.
- 9.2.4** The BUCA Committee must then discuss the verisimilitude of this evidence and determine it, by secret ballot voting; if necessary, either true or false.
- 9.2.5** If it is decided by the BUCA Committee that the evidence is false or insufficient for a decision to be cast, then no further proceedings may be taken on the matter.
- 9.2.6** If the BUCA Committee decides the evidence is sufficient and true, then they must privately discuss the appropriate action that should be taken in response to the individual(s) behaviour. This may either be suspension or exclusion. They may then take a Secret ballot or Public vote (as may be determined by the preferences of the majority of members of the BUCA Committee) on the matter. The result of this vote will become the BUCA Committee's official decision which will come into immediate effect.
- 9.2.7** If a BCM is delayed, or rendered difficult or impossible due to the absence of BUCA Committee Members, then the chairman may provisionally decide to suspend membership of the BUCA member, or members, under consideration for disciplinary action, until a BCM can be arranged to either support, reverse, or harden that action into permanent exclusion.
- 9.2.8** If a BUCA Committee Member is, or BUCA Committee Members are, under consideration for disciplinary action, then they may be excluded from this procedure but must still be invited to the meeting to make their own case. If the Chairman is under consideration, then the Vice Chairman, Treasurer or Secretary (as appropriate) may act as Chair of the proceedings in his or her stead. In the unlikely event that 3 or more BUCA Committee Members have behaved contrary to the Code of Conduct described in Section 4 of this Constitution, it is recommended that a BUCA member or BUCA members lodge a complaint with the UBU's SAC.
- 9.3** If a BUCA member is, or BUCA members are, suspended as a result of the disciplinary procedures taken against them by the BUCA Committee in a quorate BCM, then their membership privileges are revoked for a set period of time (the length of which should be set by the BUCA Committee).
- 9.4** If a BUCA member is, or BUCA members are, permanently excluded as a result of the disciplinary procedures taken against them by the BUCA Committee in a quorate BCM, then their membership of BUCA is terminated indefinitely.

10. Constitutional Amendments

- 10.1** Any proposed alterations to this Constitution must be passed by a majority of the full BUCA Committee and a two-thirds majority of quorate AGM of BUCA members.
- 10.2** All such amendments shall only become valid after approval the UBU's SAC.

11. Constitution Principal

- 11.1** This Constitution is binding over each and every activity conducted by BUCA's members. Its principles shall take absolute precedence over other documents, rules, and conventions.
- 11.2** This Constitution shall be displayed at every AGM of BUCA alongside the Union Flag.