

### Statutes

#### **Name and seat**

##### *Article 1*

The society is named TU Delft Debating Club, and was founded on 13 November 2013. It is seated in Delft, the Netherlands.

#### **Purpose**

##### *Article 2*

The society aims to develop the debating culture at the TU Delft, improve the debating skills of its members, and stimulate and maintain contact between its members.

#### **Means**

##### *Article 3*

The society endeavours to reach this purpose by:

- a. hosting debating meetings;
- b. hosting workshops;
- c. hosting and participating in debating tournaments
- d. gathering knowledge and expertise on debating;
- e. hosting social events.

#### **Duration**

##### *Article 4*

The society is founded for an undetermined time.

#### **Members**

##### *Article 5*

1. Members can be those who study or work at the TU Delft or have done so in the past.
2. People who do not fulfill the point from Article 5.1, but do still want to be part of the club are allowed when in compliance with the regulations as outlined in Article 6. They are, for the sake of clarity, referred to as “external members”.
3. There should at no time be more than 30% external members.
4. Honorary members are former members who, having distinguished themselves during their membership of the society with extraordinary achievements towards the goals of the society, are nominated by the board and appointed by the assembly.
5. Membership is personal and cannot be transferred to another person or gained by succession.
6. The Secretary keeps a list of all the members.

#### **Admission**

##### *Article 6*

1. Those who want to become a member of the society should indicate this with the Secretary.
2. The board decides on admission of members.
3. In case of non-admission of members, the assembly may still decide to admit members.
4. By joining the society, every member agrees to submit to the regulations as stipulated in this document and to support the purpose of the society.

## **End of membership**

### *Article 7*

1. Membership is terminated by:
  - a. death of the member;
  - b. written notice by the member to the secretary;
  - c. termination on behalf of the society by the board with observance of a one (1) month notice;
  - d. dismissal on behalf of the society by the assembly;
  - e. the start of an academic year in which the member does not have membership of the TU for at least a part of the year.
  - f. non-compliance with payment of the membership fee without the explicit consent of the board. The secretary informs all the members of the membership fee at the start of the academic year or at the start of the second semester, as defined by the academic year calendar of the Technische Universiteit Delft, if applicable. If the fee is not transferred two (2) months after the notification, the board can decide to terminate the membership.
2. In case of termination of membership during the academic year, the yearly contribution remains due, unless the board determines otherwise.
3. Termination or dismissal on behalf of the society by the board can only happen in case the member acted contrary to the regulations or decisions of the society, or unreasonably harms the society. The board shall inform the member in writing of the decision with the reason for the decision. The member can appeal the decision at the Assembly with an appeal period of one (1) month after receiving the notification of dismissal. During the appeal period and pending the appeal, the member is suspended. The decision of the assembly to dismiss the member has to be taken with a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority of the votes cast.

## **Funds**

### *Article 8*

1. The funds of the society consist of:
  - a. membership fees paid by members;
  - b. donations;
  - c. subsidies;
  - d. sponsorships;
  - e. payments for debating activities performed or organised by members.
2. The membership fee for the next academic year shall be determined at the Annual Assembly.
3. The board has the power to partially or completely waive the payment of the membership fee of a member.
4. The board has the power to partially or completely refund the membership fee of a member.

### *Article 9*

Payment of membership fees and other indebted amounts must happen semiannually before a date set by the Treasurer.

## **Board**

### *Article 10*

1. The board consists of at least three (3) members. In case of a board decision with an even amount of votes, the President has the deciding vote. Board members are appointed during an Assembly. If the board consists of fewer than the minimum, the board remains qualified as long as it consists of at least two (2) board members. The board makes it a priority to find board members to reach the minimum again.
2. The board is appointed by the Selection committee and needs to be approved during the assembly. The Selection Committee consists of 5 members. One (1) spot is reserved for the current board, one (1) spot is reserved for an old board member, two (2) spots are reserved for members who have never been on the board. The last spot can be for any current member of the society or any of the aforementioned groups. Members of the selection committee must fulfill these requirements at the moment the selection committee is formed or when they accede to the selection committee. Members of the selection committee cannot apply for a board position while being part of the selection committee. The selection committee will select a chair from among its members who will cast the deciding vote in case of a tie. If a tie occurs in the process of selecting a chair, the selection committee member who is oldest in age casts the deciding vote.
3. The current board selects the selection committee based on brief motivation letters. In case a member of the selection committee steps down, the selection committee may select a new member through a new round of motivation letters. Members can apply for a specific position in the future board, but the selection committee can also propose or recommend another position for the applicant. The applicant has the right to receive an offer with the knowledge of the proposed positions of all board members. If the first round of applications and offers does not lead to a board, the selection committee will decide on a suitable process to form a board. This process shall be communicated to all members at least one (1) week before the selection process begins.
4. The selection committee reveals the list of applicants and the positions they applied for at the Annual Assembly before announcing the new board, unless any applicant explicitly opts out of revealing their name or positions applied for before the Annual Assembly.
5. The board needs to be approved during an Assembly. If at least two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the votes cast is against, the selection committee will be requested to propose a new board at the next GMA held within two (2) weeks. The board may consist of the same individuals in different positions or of new individuals.
6. The board as a whole is responsible for their joint decisions. Next to that, each board member is held to properly perform its specific duties, as outlined in the Bylaws.
7. The board membership is terminated by:
  - a. end of the membership;
  - b. dismissal;
  - c. resignation.
8. Every board member can at any time be fired or suspended during an Assembly if there is a two-third ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority of the votes cast. A suspension that does not lead to a decision to dismiss within three (3) months is ended.
9. The board members can resign at any time if this is done in writing with a term of notice of three (3) months. The board is responsible for finding a new board member

### Statutes

if only one (1) board member resigns. In this case the board can appoint a member as an acting board member. This member has to be voted in with at least half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the votes in favour within one (1) month of being appointed, at a GMA. If the acting board member has not been voted in within this period, then their acting power will be rescinded. If two (2) or more board members resign, the selection committee will be reconstituted.

10. The board has the power to delegate parts of its tasks to committees appointed by the board and of which the tasks and responsibilities are determined by the board.
11. The board needs approval from the assembly before it is authorised to:
  - a. conclude agreements to buy, transfer, or encumber registered property;
  - b. conclude agreements by means of which the society binds itself as a surety or commits itself as joint and several debtor;
  - c. conclude agreements by which it warrants performance by a third party or provide security for a debt of a third party;
  - d. take out loans;
  - e. renting or leasing any registered property.

### Meetings

#### Article 11

1. The meetings are divided into:
  - a. Annual Assembly;
  - b. Assembly;
  - c. board meeting;
2. A board meeting is valid when at least a majority of the amount of board members is present. Board meetings are held monthly or at the request of the President or at least two (2) of the board members.
3. The board calls an Assembly in the following cases:
  - a. an Annual Assembly in the months of June, July, August or September.
  - b. in the months of February through June;
  - c. when it is deemed necessary by a majority of the board;
  - d. when at least seven (7) members desire one, at most three (3) weeks after the board receives such a request, containing the points they want to see discussed. In case the board does not comply with such a request, the requesters can organise an Assembly themselves, observing the provisions set out in the Statutes and the Bylaws wherever applicable.
4. An Assembly must be announced by the board to the members at least fourteen (14) days in advance in writing or by email. The announcement contains the points and proposals to be addressed during the meeting, as well as the location, date, and time of the meeting.
5. On the agenda for the Annual Assembly should be:
  - a. minutes of the previous Assembly;
  - b. annual report;
  - c. annual report and budget of the Treasurer;
  - d. audit committee report;
  - e. discharging board members;
  - f. instating the board if applicable;
  - g. a preliminary budget for the upcoming year;
  - h. activity plan for the upcoming year.
6. During the Annual Assembly the board presents its annual report detailing the course

### Statutes

of events and policy during the previous year. The annual reports are signed by all board members. In case one or more board members have not signed them, this will be explicitly mentioned and the reasons to not sign are stated.

7. Approval of the annual reports presented at the Annual Assembly discharges the board, except for what is not in the reports.
8. In case the annual reports are not approved, the assembly will appoint a commission of at least three (3) members that will research the reports. Within one (1) month after appointment the commission will report to the assembly. If the reports are again not approved, the assembly will take the measures it deems in the interest of the society.
9. Accepting a non-member to attend an Assembly is decided upon by the assembly.

### Decision-making

#### *Article 12*

1. Decisions are, unless explicitly mentioned otherwise, taken with the majority of the valid votes cast. In case no majority is obtained with a first vote, there will be a second ballot. Votes on people are cast in writing, votes on affairs orally, unless the assembly prefers a written vote. In case a vote on affairs is split (i.e., exactly half of the votes is in favour), the proposal is rejected. In case of an election, the person with more than half the votes wins. In case no one has that majority, a second election is held between the two people with the most votes, where the one with the majority of the votes wins. In case a vote on people is split, one board member will represent approval, and another board member will represent rejection. After establishing which is which, the board members will each pick a side of a coin. This coin is then flipped by one of these board members, deciding the outcome of the matter.
2. The total amount of votes is the amount of valid votes cast. Blank votes are not valid votes. Blank or invalid votes are used only to determine the quorum.
3. A call made by the President on the outcome of a vote is decisive. However, if the outcome is disputed immediately after the call is announced, the vote is re-done in case votes were cast orally, and recounted if votes were cast in writing. The second ballot is the final decision and any effects from the earlier vote are disregarded.
4. All members are required to accept the decisions made at the Assembly, regardless of whether they were present during the decision. They also commit themselves to co-operate with implementing the decisions.

#### *Article 13*

The academic year runs from 1 September till 31 August the following year.

The financial year runs from 1 September till 31 August the following year.

### Audit committee

#### *Article 14*

The audit committee is appointed at the Assembly in February through June. It consists of two (2) members qualified to vote that are not board members and one (1) person appointed by the largest sponsor, that will check the cash and the books and report about that at the upcoming Annual Assembly.

#### **Statute amendments**

##### *Article 15*

1. Amending the Statutes can only take place after an Assembly where it has been announced as part of the agenda, where at least half (1/2) of the members or fifteen (15) members are present, whichever is fewer, with at least three-fourths (3/4) of the valid votes cast in favour of the decision. If the attendance is less than half (1/2) of the members and less than fifteen (15) members, a second Assembly is held between three (3) and four (4) weeks later. In this last-held Assembly the amendment is accepted if it gets at least three-fourths (3/4) of the valid votes cast.
2. Those that aim to amend the Statutes should submit a copy of the intended amendments at least five (5) days before the day of the Assembly and ensure that all members can peruse the document until at least the end of the day of the Assembly.

#### **Dissolution and liquidation**

##### *Article 16*

1. Dissolution of the society can only take place when an Assembly specifically for this purpose has been held, where at least two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the members needs to be present and at least half of those present needs to be in favour. If the attendance is less than two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the members, a second Assembly will be held between three (3) and four (4) weeks later. In this last-held Assembly the decision is made based on the majority vote.
2. In case no liquidators are appointed with the decision to dissolve the society, the board will become the liquidators.
3. The society's credit balance will be used according to the goals which are determined by the assembly to be most in line with the society's purpose.
4. After dissolution the society will survive as long as is necessary to liquidate its assets. During this time, the Statutes and Bylaws will remain in effect whenever possible.
5. The books and records of the society must be kept by the liquidators appointed natural or legal person, for at least seven (7) years after liquidation.

#### **General**

##### *Article 17*

In all cases where the law, these Statutes, or the Bylaws do not foresee, the board decides.

#### **Alumni Membership**

##### *Article 18*

1. An alumni member is a former member who has been admitted as an alumni member by the board. The board is empowered to terminate an alumni membership by written notice.
2. An alumni member is required to give a yearly financial contribution, the minimum allowed contribution is one (1) times the Membership fee for that academic year. The alumni member may choose to give more if they wish.
3. An alumni member has the right to attend the assemblies. An alumnus member does not have a vote during the assembly and does not count towards quorum. Alumni members do have a right to speak on issues being discussed during the assembly.
4. Further rights of alumni members are enumerated in the bylaws.