

Note from Online Committee Meeting 6th June 2022, Zoom

05:00 - 06:40 (Europe/London +01:00 BST)

06:00 - 07:40 (Europe/Warsaw +02:00 CEST)

Present: **Chair:** Gregory Claeys, **Secretary:** Justyna Galant, **Treasurer:** Zolt Czigányik, **Committee Members:** Adam Stock, Antonis Balasopoulos, Artur Blaim, Jorge Bastos da Silva, Julia Ramírez Blanco, Lisa Garforth, Nicole Pohl, Rhiannon Firth, Sorin Antohi, Susanna Layh.

Apologies from: Andrew Milner, Fátima Vieira, Heather Alberro, Laurence Davis, Michael Kelly, Nathaniel Coleman, Patricia McManus, Pavla Veselá.

1. **BRIGHTON 2022 ELECTION PROCEDURE:** With regard to 2022 Brighton Conference Elections of USS/E Chair, Treasurer, and 13 Committee members it is agreed with no opposing voices that the procedure applied during the December USS/E 2021 Porto Conference will be followed: → all who have given a presentation at a meeting of the Society and are on the Society mailing list will vote electronically in a specified period around the Brighton AGM. The voting will start at the start of the conference and close at the end of the day when the AGM takes place. Results will be announced at the conference closure.
2. **29TH JUNE MEETING:** It is also agreed that an **online meeting will be held on 29th June** to allow all those interested to share feedback and discuss the proposed constitutional changes. The proposed constitutional changes will be circulated to the USS/E mailing list along with the information on candidates for the USS/E 2022 elections on **21st June**.
3. **NOMINATIONS PROCEDURE:** All agree that self-nominations for all USS/E positions should be avoided and that a note amending the nominations procedure will be circulated promptly, specifying that candidates should be nominated by another person, not necessarily a member of the USS/E, and that past and/or future activities of the candidate in the discipline of utopian studies/utopianism should be specified.
4. **VOTES:** All agree that each voter will be able to give: 1 vote for the Chair, 1 vote for Treasurer, and 13 votes for 13 different Committee members.

Proposed constitutional measures for the Society to vote on. The current constitution: <https://utopian-studies-europe.org/constitution-and-regulation/>. **The same proposed measures are also circulated in the google doc form for all Committee members to edit and comment on.**

1. **Definition of USS/E Member:**

- Membership in the Society is dependent on the payment of Society Fee in any given year.
 - Members of the Society (entitled to vote in Society elections and on all matters decided on during the AGM and eligible to be elected for office) are individuals who pay Society Fee (currently 12 EURO).
 - The society Fee is separate from the Conference Fee. It is not possible to participate in a USS/E Conference without paying the Society Fee. It is possible to be a member of the USS/E without attending the USS/E conference/s.
 - Exemptions to the fee will be provided based on the individual's circumstances and granted by the 3 Society Officers (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer). The fee for those exempt will be covered with Society funds.
2. The maximum size of the USS/E Committee will be 21. The Committee members will be the 3 Officers (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer) and 18 members, including Conference Organisers invited to join the Committee every year prior to USS/E conference and remain on it for the duration of 3 years.
 3. No nominations for any positions within the USS/E will be taken from the floor at the AGM.
 4. In case the number of candidates for USS/E positions exceeds the number of positions, those with the largest number of votes will be deemed elected.
 5. The Committee is required to make decisions about Society procedure, for instance in the choice of a future conference venue, where time may be of the essence, and consultation with the membership may be unwieldy, it may by majority vote take preliminary decisions, such as soliciting proposals, without recourse to an AGM. An AGM will normally vote (electronically) to accept or reject such proposals.
 6. It is agreed that the AGM quorum will be 30 people. If the quorum is not reached, another meeting is called within 30 minutes.