

CHARTER OF THE SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETY OF OXFORD

Adopted on the Constituting Meeting 2012-10-21, Amended at the Annual General Meeting in 2020

Article 1 Organisation and purpose

- 1 § The legal name of this society shall be the Scandinavian Society of Oxford.
- 2 § The name of the Society can be abbreviated *ScanSoc*.
- 2 § The purpose of the Scandinavian Society of Oxford is to connect members with compatriots and others, in order to find a Scandinavian context whilst abroad, and to promote interest about Scandinavian countries and their respective and collective languages, cultures and similar issues.
- 3 § The Scandinavian Society of Oxford is ideologically, politically and religiously unaffiliated.
- 4 § The Scandinavian Society of Oxford is seated in Oxford, United Kingdom.

Article 2 Working language

- 1 § The working language of the Scandinavian Society of Oxford is English.
- 2 § If unanimously approved, a meeting of the Scandinavian Society of Oxford may be conducted in another language.
- 3 § All minutes of meetings shall be written in English.

Article 3 Membership

- 1 § Any member of either the University of Oxford, or Oxford Brookes University is free to join the society
- 2 § The Scandinavian Society of Oxford aims at enrolling persons with a Scandinavian heritage, citizenship or cultural interest.

Article 4 Annual meeting

- 1 § The Annual Meeting is the highest deciding body of the Scandinavian Society of Oxford.
- 2 § The Annual Meeting shall be held during Hilary term each academic year.
- 3 § The Board shall summon all members to the Annual Meeting, at least through e-mail and Facebook, or other suitable media, no less than two weeks before the meeting is to be held. All documents relevant to the Annual Meeting shall be available to all members by the Board no less than one week before the Annual Meeting is to be held. Relevant documents include, but are not limited to, an annual report, annual accounts, motions from the Board and motions from members.
- 4 § All motions shall be in the hands of the Board no less than one weeks before the Annual Meeting is to be held.

- 5 § All members of the Scandinavian Society of Oxford are entitled to the right of speech, right of proposing and right of voting during the annual meeting.
- 6 § At least the following shall be included in the agenda of the Annual Meeting:
1. Opening of the Annual Meeting
 2. Elections of Chairman, Secretary, vote counters and adjustors for the Annual Meeting
 3. Determination of the voters' roll
 4. Inquiry as to whether the summoning of the annual meeting has been conducted according to the charter
 5. Determination of the agenda of the Annual Meeting
 6. Presentation of the annual report and annual accounts
 7. Presentation of the auditor's report
 8. Inquiry of freedom of liability for the retiring board
 9. Motions from the Board and members
 10. Elections of a new Board
 - i) President
 - ii) Other Board members
 11. Closing of the annual meeting
- 7 § The year of activity runs between two regular Annual Meetings. The accounting year runs between the 1st of January and the 31st of December.
- 8 § All documents and minutes of the Annual Meeting shall be available to all members, fully adjusted, no less than five weeks after the closing of the Annual Meeting.
- 9 § An Extraordinary Annual Meeting may be called by the Board, or, by the members through a petition signed by a majority of the members.
- 10 § The same rules apply for Extraordinary Annual Meeting as for regular Annual Meetings, with the only exception that Extraordinary Annual Meetings may be held at any time during the year.

Article 5 Board

- 1 § The Board shall be responsible for the activity, property and finances of the Scandinavian Society of Oxford during the year of activity.
- 2 § The Board shall be elected by the Annual Meeting.
- 3 § The Board shall meet if the President or a majority of the Board members calls a meeting. At least half of the Board's members must be present in order for the Board to legitimately adopt motions.

Article 6 Voting procedures

- 1 § Unless otherwise stated in this Charter, a simple majority of all votes cast, not counting blank votes, is required for the adoption of a motion.
- 2 § Voting is to be carried out first by acclamation, second, if any member so demands, by a show of hands, third, if any member so demands, through a vote count.
- 3 § Whenever a vote turns out with an even result, a lottery shall determine the winner.

- 4 § During any elections, the following procedures shall be followed:
- To be deemed elected, a candidate must win a majority of all votes. Blank votes shall also be counted.
 - If not enough candidates receive a majority of the votes to fill all posts, the remaining posts shall be appointed by means of a second round of voting, in which the candidates with the most votes shall be deemed elected, without need for a majority of the votes.
 - If the two leading candidates receive equally many votes, a separate round of voting shall be carried out between them.
 - If, in a separate voting round, the two leading candidates receive equally many votes, a lottery shall determine who shall be deemed elected.
- 5 § Members may only vote on behalf of themselves. Members may not authorise anyone else to submit their vote.

Article 7 Eligibility

- 1 § All members of Scandinavian Society of Oxford are eligible to stand for election to any post.
- 2 § Only members of Scandinavian Society of Oxford are eligible to become members of the Board.

Article 8 Signing authority

- 1 § The Board has signing authority for the Scandinavian Society of Oxford.
- 2 § The Board shall vest in two of its members signing authority for the Scandinavian Society of Oxford.

Article 9 Exclusion

- 1 § If a member has seriously injured the Scandinavian Society of Oxford, or seriously hindered the fulfilling of the purpose of the Scandinavian Society of Oxford as defined in this Charter, the member may be excluded from the Society. Only the Annual Meeting may exclude a member from Scandinavian Society of Oxford.
- 2 § A 2/3 majority is needed for exclusion.
- 3 § If a member has engaged in serious antisocial behaviour, the provision below details the protocol of the Oxford Scandinavian Society
- a) By serious antisocial behaviour is meant continuous acts of inappropriate disturbance directed towards other members or third parties at the Society's events.
 - (i) Inappropriate disturbance can manifest itself, for example, as harassment. The behaviour has to be serious enough to be considered going beyond the limit of mere annoyance or personal 'dislike', and hence it is judged from the objective viewpoint of a reasonable person.
 - (ii) The behaviour must be continuous. There must be at least two complaints, each from a different occasion.
 - (iii) The behaviour has to occur at Oxford Scandinavian Society's events. The society is not obliged to take action on events reported outside of the society.
 - b) The consequence of continued serious antisocial behaviour is exclusion from the society and its events.

- c) When the committee of the Oxford Scandinavian Society has been notified of serious antisocial behaviour of a certain member, the following protocol will be followed -
- (i) At any given point, the committee is bound by privileged trust and cannot reveal the names of the parties involved in the matter to any member outside the committee or the name of the accuser to the accused.
 - (ii) Upon the first notice brought to the attention of the committee, the committee will contact the member alleged of antisocial behavior to hear the member's view on the matter and also to warn them that continued behaviour will result in further actions.
 - (iii) Upon a second notice, the committee will gather to discuss the matter. After discussion, the committee will vote, through a hidden ballot, on whether the member should be excluded from the society. In order to exclude a member from the society a 2/3 majority is required.
 - (iv) The parties will be notified of the result of the vote immediately.
 - (v) The decision of the committee is valid immediately and is not open for re-evaluation at any certain point.
- d) if someone has engaged in behaviour that is far worse than the serious anti-social behaviour lined out above, then the committee can act according to point c) above, but does not need second notice of continued behaviour
- i) Behaviour that is far worse than serious anti-social behaviour can be defined by committee

4 § The provision above also applies to any non-members attending the events of Oxford Scandinavian Society.

Article 10 Interpretation of the Charter

1 § If controversy should arise, it is the right of the Board to determine the appropriate interpretation of the Charter, until the issue may be determined at an Annual Meeting.

Article 11 Amendments to the Charter

1 § For all amendments to this Charter, a 2/3 majority at an annual meeting is required.

2 § Charter amendments come into effect directly after adoption.

Article 12 Dissolution

1 § In order for the Scandinavian Society of Oxford to dissolve, dissolution has to be properly proposed in a motion to an Annual Meeting as is described in this Charter.

2 § Should the Scandinavian Society of Oxford be dissolved, the last Annual Meeting shall decide what to do with any remaining resources owned by the Scandinavian Society of Oxford

3 § A decision of dissolution needs to be made by a 2/3 majority, at two subsequent Annual Meetings.