

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION

Adopted by the Membership on April 19, 1970
Amended by the Membership on March 29, 1979
Amended by the Membership on March 23, 1980
Amended by the Membership on May 4, 1986
Amended by the Membership on March 13, 1994
Amended by the Membership on February 24, 1996
Amended by the Membership on March 14, 1999
Amended by the Membership on March 9, 2003
Amended by the Membership on March 7, 2004
Amended by the Membership on April 17, 2016
Amended by the Membership on June 23, 2019
Amended by the Membership on August 11, 2019
Amended by the Membership on March 15, 2020
Amended by the Membership on April 11, 2021
Amended by the Membership on July 16, 2023
Amended by the Membership on September 10, 2023
Amended by the Membership on June 29, 2025

ARTICLE I Name

The name of The Society shall be: "The University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society," abbreviated "UMGASS."

ARTICLE II Mission Statement

The University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society (hereinafter called "The Society") is committed to producing and performing the works of Gilbert and Sullivan on campus and in so doing serve as a means to develop and encourage the artistic and leadership potential of University of Michigan students while maintaining alumni and community support and involvement in an inclusive and respectful environment.

ARTICLE III Membership

A. The membership of The Society shall consist of the following:

1. All persons contributing to The Society or a production thereof.
2. All persons who have contributed to The Society or a production thereof, since the earliest Society production having a stage date within the previous thirteen months.
3. All current University of Michigan students who have met the criteria in Clause 1 at any time during which they have been students at the University of Michigan.

B. The membership shall be subject to the rules established by the Michigan Student Assembly.

C. The executive board of The Society may not of itself confer nor revoke membership status, but may resolve issues of disputed membership status in accordance with The Society's Bylaws.

D. An individual found to be in violation of the requirements stated in the Society's Constitution or Bylaws may have their membership status revoked. After three written complaints to the board, a meeting is called to decide the individual's membership status, where the member may provide a written or oral response. Revocation requires a two-thirds majority vote open to all members.

D. All members have voting rights.

F. The Society is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, height, weight, or veteran status in its membership or activities.

G. Upon joining the organization, all members agree not to undermine the purpose or mission of The Society.

ARTICLE IV Officers

A. The officers of The Society shall be as follows:

1. The President
2. The Vice-President
3. The Treasurer
4. The Secretary
5. The Ticket Manager, aka Pooh-Bah
6. The Program Editor, aka Pish-Tush
7. The Company Promoter
8. The Marketing Manager

B. The incoming Board shall take office at 12:01 AM on the first Sunday after the first Monday following the end of the University of Michigan winter term undergraduate final exams, or the fourth Sunday after the first Monday following the final performance of the winter term production, whichever is later.

C. The qualifications for the officers shall be as follows:

1. Membership in The Society.
2. The President and Treasurer must be current, incoming, or re-enrolling University of Michigan students, in order to satisfy the requirement for Authorized Signership at the Student Organization Account Services (SOAS).
3. Center for Campus Involvement (CCI) requires that the Society, as a Student Organization, have a total of at least 4 SOAS Authorized Signers, which are advised, but not required, to be members of the Executive Board. All of these Authorized Signers must be current, incoming, or re-enrolling University of Michigan students.

D. The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

1. The President shall preside at all official meetings of The Society and shall be considered spokesperson for The Society.
2. The Vice-President shall preside in the absence of the President.

3. The Treasurer shall preside in the absence of the President and Vice-President and shall oversee, record, and report the finances of The Society.
4. The Secretary shall be responsible for recording the proceedings of all official meetings of The Society and shall be responsible for the due notification of meetings.
5. The Ticket Manager shall be responsible for all aspects of ticket sales including distribution of ticket fliers, except advertising.
6. The Program Editor shall be responsible for all aspects of preparation and production of the playbill or program, including the sale of advertisements therein.
7. The Company Promoter shall be responsible for advertising activities pertaining to election meetings, petition interviews, and other special events.
8. The Marketing Manager shall be responsible for advertising activities pertaining to the productions and mass meetings.
9. An officer may be delegated any duty not delegated to another or prohibited to him/her by this Constitution or by the Bylaws of The Society.

E. If any one office, other than the presidency, becomes vacant, the President may appoint a replacement with the consent of a majority of the remaining members of the Executive Board. If the presidency becomes vacant, or if more than one office becomes vacant concurrently, the office(s) must be filled by a special election held at a meeting of The Society called for that purpose by the presiding officer of the Executive Board.

F. An officer may be recalled by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting at a special meeting of The Society called for that purpose, or by a two-thirds vote of the remaining members of the Executive Board.

G. An officer unable to carry out the duties of office may declare that office temporarily vacant, in which case the Board may appoint an acting officer to serve until such time as the original officer shall declare that he/she is able to resume the office and the Board, by majority vote, finds the original officer capable of resuming office. The Board may, by two-thirds vote, declare an office temporarily vacant due to absence, illness, or otherwise, and appoint an acting officer to serve until such time as the Board, by majority vote, finds the original officer capable of resuming office. Absence from the environs of the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor campus for a period in excess of 30 days shall be presumptive grounds for replacement by an acting officer.

ARTICLE V Executive Board

A. The Executive Board of The Society shall consist of:

1. The officers as outlined in Article IV above as voting members.
2. The faculty advisors and the FUMGASS liaison, as non-voting, ex-officio members.
3. Three advisory board members, as alternate members, who can be designated as regular (voting) members under special circumstances described in Article VII of the Bylaws of The Society.

B. The Executive Board shall be responsible for the fulfillment of the purpose of The Society as stated in Article II.

C. Unless otherwise stated herein or in the Bylaws of The Society, a quorum of the Executive Board shall be empowered to act by a simple majority vote of its members present and voting.

D. Four voting members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.

E. The officers and advisory board members of the Executive Board, as defined in sections A.1 and A.3 of this article, respectively, shall be chosen through elections subject to the following criteria:

1. Elections shall occur at a meeting of the Society held according to the rules of Article VI, section A.3 of the Constitution.
2. All members of the Society present at the election meeting shall be eligible to vote. No absentee or proxy voting shall be permitted.
3. Candidates for election shall require nomination by two Society members.
 - a. Nominations may be submitted in advance of the election meeting, or from the floor.
 - b. Candidates may serve as one of the two requisite nominators for their own candidacy.
 - c. Individuals may refuse nomination at any time, including retroactively.
 - d. No individual shall need to be present at an election meeting to be either nominated or elected.
4. Secret paper ballots shall be used for all positions sought by more than one candidate. Simple voice vote may be used for unopposed candidates.
5. The candidate receiving a majority of all valid ballots for a position shall be declared the winner.
6. The Bylaws of the Society shall include a complete outline of elections procedure that executes in detail all constitutional elections provisions, and elections shall be conducted in accordance with that procedure.

ARTICLE VI Meetings

A. The meetings of The Society shall be defined as follows:

1. Mass Meetings shall:
 - a. Be for the purpose of recruiting for and promoting the next production of The Society.
 - b. Be open to the public.
 - c. Be duly publicized.
2. Post-mortem meetings shall:
 - a. Be for the purpose of review of the preceding show.
 - b. Be held as soon as is practical after the show.
 - c. Be open to members.
 - d. Be duly publicized.
3. Election Meetings shall:
 - a. Be for the purpose of electing new officers.
 - b. Be held once a year, before the end of the second academic (i.e. winter) term.
 - c. Be open to members.
 - d. Be duly publicized.
4. Board Meetings shall:
 - a. Be for the purpose of conducting and reporting the business of The Society.
 - b. Be open to all members.
 - c. Be duly publicized.
5. Special Meetings shall:
 - a. Be called at any time by the President or presiding officer of the Board.

- b. Be called by the President or presiding officer within two weeks after receipt of a petition for any purpose signed by at least twenty members of The Society or a majority of the Executive Board.
 - c. Be duly publicized.
 - d. Be open to all members.
- 6. Closed Meetings (i.e., meetings which are open only to voting members of the Executive Board)
 - a. May be called by the President or presiding officer with the advice and consent of two-thirds of the Board if, in his/her opinion, the nature of the proposed meeting is such that the presence of other members of The Society would be counterproductive.

ARTICLE VII Operational Procedures

A. Procedures for effecting the business of The Society not otherwise set forth herein shall be set forth in the Bylaws of The Society.

B. Bylaws shall be enacted, deleted, or amended as follows:

- 1. By an affirmative vote of five voting members of the Executive Board; or
- 2. By an affirmative vote of two-thirds of Society members present and voting at a special meeting called for that purpose.

C. A copy of the Bylaws and/or of this Constitution shall be made available to any member upon request. Changes in the Bylaws shall be duly announced to members of The Society.

ARTICLE VIII Amendment

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of Society members present and voting at a meeting called for the purpose of amendment, provided that the membership has been duly notified.

ARTICLE IX Review & Ratification

This Constitution will be reviewed and ratified at an interval of every four years, beginning in 2020. Ratification requires a two-thirds majority vote of society members present and voting at a meeting called for the purpose of ratification, provided the membership has been duly notified.

ARTICLE X Interpretation

A. A committee for the interpretation of this Constitution shall be established as follows:

- 1. The Interpretation Committee (hereinafter called "The Committee") shall consist of the faculty advisors of The Society.
- 2. The Committee shall, in the event that it meets, designate one of its members as its presiding officer, who shall remain in that position until he/she becomes unable or unwilling to serve.
- 3. A quorum of The Committee shall consist of those members, not fewer than three, present at a duly publicized meeting.

B. The duties of The Committee shall be as follows:

- 1. It shall be the function of The Committee to interpret and or provide clarification of this Constitution and of the Bylaws of The Society.
- 2. The Committee shall be convened upon the written request of a majority of the Executive Board or upon the written request of at least twenty members of The Society.

3. The Committee shall be convened no later than seventy-two hours following the submission of the written request to any member of The Committee, and shall remain in session until the matter at issue shall have been adjudicated by a majority vote of its members.
4. The Committee may not of itself initiate interpretation or clarification.
5. The judgment of The Committee shall become part of the permanent record of The Society.

C. In the event that The Committee cannot be convened as set forth in Section (A) above, (e.g., if its members are unable or unwilling to serve), then the President or presiding officer shall call a special meeting of The Society membership, except in the case of membership disputes as outlined in the Society Bylaws, who shall decide the matter.

D. The Board shall appoint such standing committees as it deems advisable, including a Standing Committee on The Constitution and Bylaws, which shall consist of a chair and members to be appointed by the chair in consultation with the Board, to advise the Board with respect to matters concerning the Constitution and Bylaws and to recommend such revisions and amendments as may be appropriate.

ARTICLE XI Affiliations

The society is affiliated with the following organizations:

1. The University of Michigan College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
2. Friends of the University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society

ARTICLE XII Supersession

This Constitution supersedes all previous Constitutions, Charters, and/or Rules of The Society.