

Rules of the United Kingdom Constitutional Law Association

Adopted at a meeting of members on 17 January 2014

1. The association known as the United Kingdom Constitutional Law Group shall henceforth be styled 'the United Kingdom Constitutional Law Association', abbreviated to 'UKCLA'.
2. The object of the UKCLA shall be to encourage and promote the advancement of knowledge relating to United Kingdom constitutional law (broadly defined) and the study of constitutions generally. In furtherance of this object, the UKCLA shall
 - a. commission and publish analysis and commentary on constitutional matters through a blog or other media
 - b. organise and publicise conferences, seminars and other meetings
 - c. cooperate with other scholarly and professional associations
 - d. be affiliated to the International Association of Constitutional Law (IACL) and encourage awareness of and participation in the activities of the IACL
 - e. carry out any other activities thought by the executive committee to be desirable.
3. The UKCLA shall have four categories of membership.
 - a. Ordinary membership is open to people engaged in law teaching and/or legal scholarship, whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere. Ordinary members who have been members for six months or more may vote at the AGM and special meetings; all ordinary members may attend and speak at the AGM and special meetings.
 - b. Student membership is open to people enrolled on an undergraduate or postgraduate taught programme at a university and postgraduate research students. Student members shall have no voting rights but may attend and speak at the AGM and special meetings.
 - c. Associate membership is open to legal practitioners, civil servants, members, officers and staff of legislative bodies, members of the judiciary and other people with an interest in constitutional law. Associate members shall have no voting rights but may attend and speak at the AGM and special meetings.
 - d. Distinguished life membership of the UKCLA may be proposed by the executive committee and agreed at an annual general meeting in recognition of services rendered to the UKCLA, its forerunners or to constitutional law. Distinguished life members shall have no voting rights but may attend and speak at the AGM and special meetings.
4. An annual membership subscription, covering a calendar year, shall be payable by ordinary, student and associate members. Different subscription fees may be set for different categories of membership. Membership shall cease if a member is more than three months in arrears or gives written notification of their resignation to the President. Distinguished life members shall not be called upon for any subscription.
5. The UKCLA shall have an executive committee consisting of:
 - a. nine ordinary members elected by the ordinary members
 - b. up to three members from any category co-opted by the executive committee.
6. The members of the UKCLA executive committee shall, so far as possible, between them have knowledge of the law of each part of the United Kingdom. The function of the executive committee shall be to provide leadership in realising the objects of the UKCLA.

7. An annual general meeting (AGM) shall be held once a year. Notice of the AGM shall be notified to members via the blog at least 28 days in advance. The functions of the AGM shall be
 - a. to confirm minutes of the previous AGM and of any intervening special general meeting
 - b. to elect members to vacancies on the UKCLA executive committee
 - c. to consider reports of the UKCLA executive committee on past and forthcoming activities of the UKCLA and the IACL
 - d. to approve a statement of accounts and financial report from the Treasurer
 - e. to set the amount of the annual membership subscriptions for ordinary, student and associate members
 - f. to consider resolutions put forward by members, which shall normally be notified to the President in writing at least 14 days in advance of the AGM
 - g. to consider and either ratify, repeal or vary, any decision reached by special general meeting organised under clause 8 below.
8. A special general meeting shall be organised by the executive committee if requested by ten or more ordinary members to discuss and decide any matter relating to the UKCLA. Notice of a special general meeting shall be notified to members via the blog at least 7 days in advance.
9. An ordinary member seeking election to the UKCLA executive committee shall notify the President in writing in advance of the AGM.
 - a. If the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, the candidates will be elected unopposed.
 - b. If there are no candidates or fewer candidates than the number of vacancies, nominations may be made orally at the AGM.
 - c. If there are more candidates than vacancies, a secret ballot shall take place at the AGM using a preferential system of voting.
10. The term of office for elected and co-opted members of the UKCLA executive committee shall be three years except
 - a. in the first elections under these Rules, three elected UKCLA executive committee members shall be elected for one year (eligible for re-election) to enable elections to take place for one-third of elected executive committee members in each subsequent year
 - b. where a member of the executive committee is elected or co-opted to the executive committee of the IACL, his or her term of office on the UKCLA executive committee shall be co-extensive with service on the IACL executive committee.
11. The UKCLA executive committee shall from among their number appoint the following officers; a person may hold more than one office and offices may be shared. Additional roles may be designated by the executive committee:
 - a. President;
 - b. Vice-President;
 - c. Events organiser;
 - d. Treasurer;
 - e. Membership secretary;

- f. Blog editor.
12. In relation to the IALC
- a. two members of the UKCLA executive committee shall represent the UKCLA at the meeting of the Council of the IACL held at the World Congress (every four years).
 - b. one member of the UKCLA executive committee shall seek election to and serve on the IACL executive committee (for a term of four years, renewable once).
13. The Treasurer under the supervision of the executive committee shall keep all subscriptions and other money received for the purposes of the UKCLA. The UKCLA executive committee shall have power to direct or approve the expenditure of UKCLA funds in such manner as they think fit in accordance with these rules. The executive committee may allow the funds of the UKCLA to remain at any bank or in the name of the UKCLA within the accounts of a department of a United Kingdom university.
14. Any member of the UKCLA who may be guilty of any conduct which in the opinion of the UKCLA executive committee renders her or his membership detrimental to the interests of the UKCLA may be requested to resign, and if she or he refuses to do so, may be expelled, by a resolution of the executive committee, subject to an opportunity being given to her or him to explain her or his conduct. Any resolution shall require a majority of not less than two-thirds of the executive committee.
15. Any of these Rules may be repealed or amended by a resolution passed at an AGM provided that
- a. notice of the proposed change was given to the previous AGM
 - b. the change is supported by at least four elected members of the UKCLA executive committee at the AGM at which the proposed change is to be decided
 - c. the change is supported by a majority of ordinary members present and entitled to vote at the AGM.