



CONSTITUTION OF THE IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES

1. Name

The name of the organisation shall be IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES (“the Association” and “IAAS”).

2. Aim

The aim of the organisation shall be to foster the study of all areas of American Studies throughout the island of Ireland.

3. Objectives

The objectives of the Association shall be

- a) to raise the awareness of American Studies in all its aspects throughout the island of Ireland;
- b) to provide for the dissemination of scholarship in American Studies between members, and in general;
- c) to organise events, including an annual Conference;
- d) to publish a journal at intervals;
- e) to dispense bursaries and funding support to eligible members applying in open competition to the Association for such monies.

4. Membership

- a) Membership of the Association shall be open to any individual wishing to promote the Aims and Objectives of the Association who is approved by the Association’s Executive Committee.
- b) The members of the Association will elect an Executive Committee.
- c) The Executive Committee shall be:
 - (i) The Chair
 - (ii) The Vice Chair
 - (iii) The Secretary
 - (iv) The Treasurer & Membership Secretary
 - (v) The Postgraduate & Early Career Caucus Co-Chairs
 - (vi) The IAAS representative to the European Association for American Studies

(vii) Two Ordinary members.

Also serving on the Committee are the following non-elected positions:

- (viii) *ex officio* the Chair of the Irish Fulbright Committee's Alumni Committee;
- (ix) *ex officio* the Mary Ball Washington Professor of American Studies;
- (x) *ex officio* the cultural attaché at the US Embassy, Dublin;
- (xi) *ex officio* the cultural attaché at the US Consulate, Belfast;
- (xii) The *IJAS Online* Editor;
- and (xiii) Honorary President.

The Executive Committee may co-opt up to two additional members for a period of one year.

- d) The *IJAS Online* Editor is appointed at the discretion of the Executive Committee. An editorial team to support the Editor's work on *IJAS Online* may or may not be appointed by the Editor.
- e) The Honorary Presidency is bestowed upon a member in high standing, subject to nomination. The President is not required to attend committee meetings and acts in an advisory capacity to the Executive Committee in the interests of the wider Association.
- f) Each member shall pay a subscription, to be determined each year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), and will be entitled on payment to attend the AGM and other general meetings.
- g) Amendments to the Constitution may only be agreed at an AGM or an Extraordinary General Meeting under the terms of 7 b) below by a two-thirds majority of those present and eligible to vote.
- h) All members are eligible to apply for IAAS bursaries and awards where they meet the criteria for eligibility.
- i) Membership automatically includes constituent membership of the EAAS (European Association for American Studies) and permits participation in the biennial conferences of the EAAS as a delegate of the IAAS.

5. Meetings

- a) There shall be an Annual General Meeting which shall normally be held during the Annual Conference.
- b) The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a year, outside of the AGM.
- c) An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called at the discretion of the Executive Committee or at the request of one fifth of the membership.
- d) An AGM or EGM shall have a quorum if at least two thirds of the Executive Committee and a similar number of members plus one are present.
- e) The Chair of any meeting of the Association shall have a deliberative vote, and, in the event of a tie, a casting vote.

6. Elections

- a) Elections shall be held for the following offices:
 - i) The Chair,
 - ii) The Vice Chair,
 - iii) The Secretary,
 - iv) The Treasurer & Membership Secretary,
 - v) The Postgraduate & Early Career Caucus Co-Chairs,
 - vi) The IAAS Representative to the European Association for American Studies.
- b) The nominations for the offices indicated in 6 a) shall be proposed and seconded by members of the Association, either at the AGM or by electronic communication with the Secretary. Any member shall be entitled to be nominated for office. Electronic nominations must be received by the Secretary a minimum of two weeks before the AGM.
- c) The elections for the offices indicated in 6 a) shall be by a ballot of members at the Annual General Meeting, including a tally of any absent members who have indicated their preferences to the Secretary via electronic means.
- d) If no valid nomination is received for any office indicated in 6 a), the Executive Committee is empowered to nominate and elect for that office from among the members.
- e) The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer & Membership Secretary, and Postgraduate & Early Career Caucus Co-Chairs shall be elected to serve for a period of two years with the possibility of re-election. The IAAS Representative to the European Association for American Studies shall be elected for a period of four years with the possibility of re-election.
- f) An election shall be held for the two ordinary members of the Executive Committee who do not hold an office of the Association.
- g) The nomination for ordinary members of the Executive Committee shall be proposed and seconded by members of the Association, either at the AGM or by electronic communication with the Secretary. Any member shall be entitled to be nominated for membership of the Executive Committee.
- h) The election for the ordinary members of the Executive Committee shall be by a ballot of members at the Annual General Meeting, including a tally of any absent members who have indicated their preferences to the Secretary via electronic means.
- i) If the number of valid nominations for members of the Executive Committee does not exceed the number of vacancies, the nominees for membership of the Executive Committee shall be declared elected.
- j) If less than the required number of nominations is received for membership of the Executive Committee (excluding officers), the Executive Committee is empowered to nominate and elect the remainder of members for the Executive Committee from among those members.
- k) Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected for two years with the possibility of re-election.

- l) Officers indicated in 6 a) and other members of the Executive Committee shall take office or assume Committee membership immediately after the Annual General Meeting following their election.
- m) The President will serve for a period of four years, with the possibility of re-nomination. Nominations for the role of President should be submitted to the Chair of the Association a minimum of two weeks before the AGM. Where no nominations are received and the post stands vacant, it will remain so until a new nomination is received prior to the next AGM.
- n) Casual vacancies arising amongst the offices indicated in 6 a) or amongst members of the Executive Committee before the expirations indicated in 6 e) or 6 k) shall be filled by procedures agreed by the Executive Committee. Such vacancies will be filled at the next AGM or, if required, an EGM.
- o) Where an Executive Committee member is unable to continue their role, the role will be temporarily filled by another Executive Committee member until a new Executive Committee member is elected. Should the role of Chair become vacant for such reasons, the Vice Chair will assume the Chair of the Association until the next AGM or, if required, an EGM.
- p) Where an Executive Committee member fails to renew their annual membership subscription to the Association they shall be required to vacate their role on the Executive Committee.

7. Conduct of Business

- a) The Secretary shall give at least four weeks notice of the Annual General Meeting or any Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).
- b) Any proposal to amend the Constitution must be received by the Secretary in writing at least two weeks in advance of the AGM or a proposed EGM. All such proposed amendments shall be circulated with the AGM or EGM agenda.
- c) All business meetings of the Association will address the matters printed on the published agenda which must be circulated to those concerned at least one week in advance of the date of the meeting.
- d) If no clear consensus emerges decisions at meetings will be reached by a simple majority vote on resolutions duly proposed and seconded.
- e) A Prizes subcommittee, under the office of the Vice Chair, shall be convened to ensure the fair distribution of Association bursaries and awards. Membership will be by invitation from the Vice Chair on an annual basis.
- f) Interpretation of the Constitution and decisions on matters of ambiguity shall rest with the Chair.