

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR LEARNING DEVELOPMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION (ALDinHE)

1. NAME:

The Name: 'The Association for Learning Development in Higher Education (ALDinHE)' is adopted as the name of the Association.

2. ADDRESS:

The address of ALDinHE will be that of the Secretary.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

The aims of ALDinHE are:

- i) to be an association representing professionals employed in the field of Learning Development in Higher Education, primarily in the UK and Ireland; and those with an active interest in the field, for instance subscribers to the Learning Development in Higher Education Network (LDHEN) JISCmail discussion list.
- ii) to promote discussion about effective models for Learning Development, cultivate a community of practice and act as a supportive network for the general professional development of staff involved with Learning Development (LD), i.e. those working with students in focussing on the experience of learning in higher education contexts.

The objectives of ALDinHE are:

- a) to support the LDHEN and to facilitate discussion, exchange information, and hold meetings on the diverse activities related to learning development work in higher education, primarily in the United Kingdom and Ireland.
- b) to facilitate contacts between learning development professionals, services and associated bodies in universities both nationally and internationally
- c) to identify, describe, analyse and discuss all aspects of LD in practice
- d) to promote relevant research into learning and teaching and into students' experience of higher education
- e) to support the development and implementation of effective materials, resources and approaches in LD
- f) to work with other agencies in developing standards for professional training and development in LD
- g) to identify appropriate quality assurance mechanisms for LD

These and other aims may be pursued by the creation of special interest groups.

The Association will be non-profit making and will levy a subscription on its members.

4. MEMBERSHIP:

The Secretary will present applications for membership, whether Individual or Institutional, to the first meeting of the Steering Group after their receipt. Acceptance or rejection shall be determined by a simple majority vote of the Steering Group.

4.1 Individual Membership:

Individuals who subscribe to the Aims of the Association above may be accepted as Individual Members of ALDinHE. Prospective Individual Members should apply in writing to the Secretary. Each Individual Member shall be entitled to one vote whenever a ballot is called for.

4.2 Institutional Membership:

Membership of ALDinHE shall normally be open to any university or higher education institution in Ireland or the United Kingdom subscribing to the aims of the Association and to the LDHEN.

Applications for membership must be made in writing to the Secretary by an authorised employee of a prospective member institution, who will be required to provide a description of the relevant activities of that institution as part of the application.

Each Institutional Member shall be entitled to one vote whenever a ballot is called for. This may be cast at meetings by a delegated representative or by a nominated proxy.

4.3 Honorary Membership:

Honorary Memberships may be conferred for specific duration at the direction of the Steering Group; such members will have no voting rights.

5. CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP

An Individual Member or a delegated representative, or other responsible person of the Institution, may withdraw from membership by writing to the Secretary.

Membership will be deemed to have ceased if a due subscription remains unpaid six months after issue of the invoice.

Membership may be resumed on payment of current subscription due without the need for re-election.

Honorary Memberships expire as directed by the Steering Group.

6. STRUCTURE

Ultimate responsibility for the Association is vested in an Annual General Meeting (see below). Responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Association is conferred upon elected Officers who collectively comprise a Steering Group.

6.1 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting shall be held at least once a year. A quorum will consist of either fifteen members, or ten percent of the all members of the Association, whichever is lower. The agenda for Annual General Meetings will be circulated by the Secretary at least one week in advance of the meeting. Extraordinary meetings of the Association may be called at a minimum of 21 days notice on the written request of ten percent of the all members of the

Association or more than half of the Steering Group. Such a meeting may deal only with the business for which it has been called.

The business of the Annual General Meeting will be as follows:

Election of Officers
Chair Person's report
Secretary's report
Treasurer's report
Special Interest Group reports
Discussion of and voting on motions
Subscriptions
Any Other Business

Voting shall be by a show of hands or, when circumstances merit, by written ballot, from individual members, delegated representatives or nominated proxies.

Election of Officers shall be by written ballot of individual and delegated representatives.

6.2 Steering Group

Day-to-day management of the Association shall be vested in a Steering Group elected from representatives by delegated representatives. Elections shall take place annually. If insufficient candidates are available for election to the Steering Group, the existing officers will seek to co-opt colleagues from among the membership of the Association as appropriate.

The membership of the Steering Group should reflect the diverse activities of the representatives.

The following officers shall comprise the Steering Group, which shall be the only body authorised to conduct the Association's business:

Chairperson
Vice Chair
Secretary
Treasurer
Other officers (3).

The quorum for a meeting of the Steering Group shall be 4.

If any Office falls vacant during a term, the remaining Officers shall co-opt a new representative to fill that vacancy; continuation in office of this appointee shall be subject to confirmation at the next Annual General Meeting.

Definitions

Member: provider of payment subscriptions

Delegated Representative: That representative of any Institution with more than one representative who is delegated to vote on issues on behalf of that Institution.

7. FINANCE

The financial year shall be the academic year, 1st August to 31st July.

The amount for subscriptions will be set annually at a meeting of the Annual General Meeting.

The accounts shall be audited at the end of the Treasurer's term or as directed by the Steering Group.

The capital shall be for the sole support of the Association and its administration. Its bank account(s) shall be in credit at all times.

8. AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

To establish the Association, the Steering Group shall have authority to make minor alterations to the Constitution prior to the second AGM (to be held in 2008). Thereafter, amendments can only be made at the Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary Meeting, subject to 21 days' notice being given of the proposed change of rule.

Amendments shall require a two-thirds majority of the individual members and delegated representatives attending the Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary Meeting.

9. DISSOLUTION

Should the Association disband, any surplus assets remaining after liabilities have been cleared shall be transferred to such charitable organisations as may be decided by the delegated representatives at a meeting of the Annual General Meeting

10. STANDING ORDERS

The Chairperson may limit any discussion at meetings. Those present shall speak only when recognised by the Chair.

The decision of the Chairperson shall be respected as final on ordinary business.

The Vice Chair shall deputise for the Chairperson when required.

The Secretary shall keep minutes and circulate them to all members and shall maintain an accurate current directory of the entire membership.

The Treasurer shall assist the Secretary in maintaining an accurate current directory of members who have paid their subscription.

Only the Steering Group can authorise expenditure.

No member or representative shall purport to make a commitment on behalf of, or represent the views of, the Association without the authorisation of the Steering Group.