

# **British Association for Romantic Studies Constitution**

## *I. Aims of the Society*

The object of the British Association for Romantic Studies shall be the advancement of public education by the promotion of the study of the culture of the Romantic period. In furtherance of the said object but not otherwise the Association may:

- (i) collect and disseminate information on all matters affecting the said object and exchange such information with other bodies having similar objects whether in this country or overseas;
- (ii) cause to be written and printed or otherwise circulated through its website and mailbase, gratuitously or otherwise, such documents as shall further the said objects;
- (iii) raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of subscriptions and otherwise PROVIDED THAT the Association shall not undertake permanent trading activities in raising funds for said objects;
- (iv) fund conferences, research seminars and bursaries as it sees fit;
- (v) do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the attainment of the said objects.

The Association is non-political.

## *II. Membership*

Membership of the Association and the benefits appertaining to it shall be open to all persons, of all nationalities, interested in the aims of the Association. There shall be three categories of members: regular members; honorary members; student / retired members.

## *III. Officers*

The Society has the following officers: a President; a Vice President; a Secretary; and a Treasurer & Membership Secretary.

The officers shall be proposed by the Executive Committee to the membership, and will normally be drawn from the current membership of the Executive. Officers will be elected by members at each Biennial General Meeting and are eligible for re-election, except that the President shall not normally be eligible for re-election for more than two successive terms.

#### *IV. Executive Committee*

The Executive Committee consists of a core of 11 elected members:

- (i) the officers (a President; a Vice President; a Secretary; and a Treasurer & Membership Secretary)
- (ii) the immediate past President (ex officio)
- (iii) six elected members, of whom at least one shall be a postgraduate student, one shall be early career, and one shall act as the editor of the BARS Review.

The elected members shall normally serve for not more than four years. The election of the Executive Committee members shall take place at the Biennial General Meeting.

The elected Committee shall encourage the membership of the Association to nominate new members for the Committee for election at the Biennial General Meeting, although the Committee should also ensure the Association is properly supported by maintaining a viable Executive Committee membership through extending membership where necessary. The Executive Committee shall have power to co-opt further members on but not exclusively on the following grounds: a) to maintain gender balance on the Committee; b) to facilitate conference organization by including past and current conference organisers; c) to chair and staff the book prize sub-committee; d) to bring onto the Committee necessary further expertise. Co-option will be carried out through President's action in consultation with the Committee. Co-opted members will take full part in the Committee's discussions and resolutions, but in the exceptional event of the President calling for a vote, this should be confined only to elected members. The Executive Committee shall have power to create and wind up sub-committees as required.

The President shall be required to call a meeting of the Executive Committee at the request of any three elected members. A meeting shall be quorate when at least seven members, elected or co-opted, of the Committee are present.

No member of the Committee shall be under the age of eighteen years.

#### *V. Biennial General Meeting of the Association*

The Association shall hold a Biennial General Meeting at the biennial international conference. Other General Meetings may be called at other times, with not less than one month's written notice to all members, by the Executive Committee or by the President, at the request of not less than 20% of the members of the Association.

#### *VI. Elections*

Elections of officers: the Executive Committee will propose officers to the membership of the Association. Officers will normally be drawn from the serving members of the Executive Committee. They will be elected by a majority of members of the Association present at the Biennial General Meeting.

Election of members of the Executive Committee: The Executive Committee will solicit and propose nominations of candidates for election after not less than three weeks' notice to all members. They will be elected by a majority of members of the Association present at the Biennial General Meeting.

Any member present at the Biennial General Meeting may act as proxy to no more than two absent members who will delegate to him/her in writing their vote to use as he/she sees fit.

Vacancies arising between elections may be filled by decision of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will solicit nominations (proposed and seconded) from the Executive and the membership. In the event that a number of candidates appear, a vote will be taken of all full voting members of the Executive, and the president will have the casting vote.

#### *VII. Subscriptions*

The amount of the annual subscriptions to the Association should be reviewed by the Executive Committee on a biennial basis. Proposals for changes should be put to the Biennial General Meeting for discussion and ratification.

#### *VIII. Amendments to the Constitution*

The Biennial General Meeting of the Association may amend the Constitution by a majority of two thirds of the members present and voting, provided that a quorum of twenty members be present, and that written notice of the amendment proposed has been given to all members not less than one month before the General Meeting.

#### *IX. Dissolution*

The Association may be dissolved by the agreement of not less than three quarters of those members present at an Extraordinary General Meeting specially summoned for this purpose, as provided in Clause V above. Any funds existing at the time of dissolution shall not become the property of any member or members but shall be devoted to furthering the aim defined in Clause I.

*The above constitution was approved at and by the Biennial General Meeting of the Association, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2015.*