

# CONSTITUTION OF THE HARVARD POLISH SOCIETY

## **Article I. Name**

The name of the organization shall be Harvard Polish Society, hereafter referred to as "the Society".

## **Article II. Purpose**

The Harvard Polish Society is concerned with the political, social, and cultural issues regarding Poland. The Society will seek to promote greater awareness and understanding of these issues in the Harvard community through activities including, but not limited to, meetings, film screenings, talks and cookouts.

## **Article III. Membership**

Membership in this organization shall be open to all students in good standing, currently enrolled in Harvard University, regardless of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender orientation, or physical disability.

1. Membership shall be retained until the student severs relations with the University, whether by graduation or otherwise. Membership will be retained during the vacations and recesses of the University.
2. Any member may resign at any time by filing written resignation with the Vice-President.
3. A Voting Member shall be defined as any member, except faculty members, who attended at least five (5) meetings throughout the academic year.

## **Article IV. Officers**

The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, Vice-president and Treasurer, and other officers as may be designated by the Society. All officers shall be Voting Members of the Society, as defined in Article III Section 3. The term of office shall start on the first day of summer recess and shall terminate on the last day of the following academic year.

1. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Society and shall have general supervision and control over its programs and day-to-day activities. He or she shall also be the primary contact with the Society's faculty advisors.
2. The Vice-President shall assist the President and assume his or her duties if the President is unable to serve. He or she will handle all formal correspondence between members and officers of the Society.
3. The Treasurer shall have general charge of the Society's finances, including the preparation of the Society's annual budget and annual financial report(s). He or she shall keep accurate records of financial affairs and be responsible for grant applications within the University. The Treasurer shall present a semi-annual

financial report to the officers. In addition, he or she shall coordinate other fundraising activities.

#### **Article V. Elections**

1. Officers shall be elected annually by the Voting Members of the Society, as defined in Article III Section 3. Elections shall be held during the month of April. The members shall be informed of the time and place of the election as well as of the nominated candidates a week prior to election date.
2. The President of the Society is to be nominated for election from among the current Voting Members who have attended at least ten (10) meetings in the current academic year. Should none of such Voting Members be interested in or eligible for the nomination, the nomination shall be open to all Voting Members of the society. The President shall be elected prior to the other officers.
3. Any Voting member of the Society may be nominated for election for the remaining officer positions. These officers shall be elected in the following order: Vice-president, Treasurer.
4. All Voting Members shall have one vote by a secret ballot for each position. Quorum for elections is at least ten (10) Voting Members of the Society, including proxy votes submitted to the appointed Election Commissioner at least 24 hours before the starting time of elections.
5. Candidates shall deliver short speeches explaining their candidacy immediately before voting procedure.

#### **Article VI. Meetings**

1. Meetings of the Society shall be held on a regular basis for the purpose of social interaction, determining policy, activities, programs, and other business. Special meetings of the Society may be called by the President, the Vice-President, or any five members of the Society.
2. The President shall chair all meetings. In the President's absence, the Vice-President shall chair.
3. Notice of regular and special meetings shall be communicated to all members of the Society by the Vice-President.

#### **Article VII. Amendments**

1. This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the Society in a voting session attended by at least ten (10) members of the Society.
2. Any three members of the Society may propose an amendment. Proposals shall be filed in writing with the Vice-President prior to a meeting, and debated by the Society before the voting procedure. Amendments may be voted on during regular or special meetings.