

THE SOCIETY FOR CO-OPERATIVE STUDIES

Constitution

1. TITLE

The title shall be the Society for Co-operative Studies.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose will be to promote the exchange of information and experience on Co-operative studies and research and to help in identifying and developing the studies and research still needed.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership will be open to all individuals and organisations interested in the development of Co-operative studies and research, each organisation nominating one person as a participant.

4. ORGANISATION

(a) The Society will be an independent voluntary organisation working in close association with the educational organisations of the Co-operative Movement and not intended to overlap the executive functions of these organisations.

(b) There will be an annual general meeting of individuals and organisations in membership of the Society. Organisations will have one vote each. Decisions will be taken by a majority of the votes of those present.

(c) The annual general meeting will appoint the following national officers:

(i) *Presidents*

The number will be decided by the annual general meeting and will represent professional service both inside and outside the Co-operative Movement. Presidents will be eligible for re-election.

(ii) *Chairman and Two Vice-Chairmen*

The chairman will hold office for one year, and shall not be eligible for re-election in the following year.

(iii) *Secretary and Treasurer*

This appointment will be made annually.

These officers will be responsible for the affairs of the Society between annual general meetings and in accordance with any decisions of policy made by the meetings.

(d) Members of the Society within a Section, or group of Sections, of the Co-operative Union will be invited to appoint two joint conveners, one primarily associated with the Co-operative interest and one primarily associated with the academic interest, to take a lead in organising regional activities.

The officer of the Education Department of the Co-operative Union in the Section or region will act as Secretary for each set of joint conveners.

5. ACTIVITIES

Without setting a limit to the activities that may carry out the purpose of the Society, the following framework will give some guidance.

(a) *Fields of Study*

Appropriate fields of study for the Society to keep under review will be:

- (i) Structure of the Movement;
- (ii) Business efficiency;
- (iii) Member participation;
- (iv) Service to the Consumer;
- (v) Political action and organisation;
- (vi) Role of the British Movement in international Co-operation;
- (vii) History of the Movement;
- (viii) Development of Co-operative principles in other fields of economic and social activity.

(b) *Lines of Development*

These will include:

- (i) Encouragement of courses and research projects at universities and colleges and at the Co-operative College.
- (ii) Meetings and seminars regionally.
- (iii) Meetings and seminars nationally.
- (iv) Relations with international organisations for Co-operative studies and research.

(c) *Publication*

Policy on publications, whether through the Society's own or other media such as Co-operative College Papers, will be determined by members at the annual general meetings.

6. FINANCE

The annual subscription will be set at a rate appropriate to cover the running expenses of the Society and will initially be £2 for an individual member, and £10 for an organisation.

7. AMENDMENTS

The constitution can be amended by a majority vote at an annual general meeting. Notice of the proposal of any amendment must be made to the Secretary and Treasurer at least four weeks before the annual general meeting.