

# Proposed Constitution

## 1. Title

1.1 The Society shall be called "*The International Association for the Study of Affective Touch* (IASAT)"

## 2. Aims

2.1 The aims of the Society shall be the furtherance of scientific enquiry, education and dissemination of ideas within the field of 'affective touch' and similar subjects, by holding periodical meetings at which papers may be read and discussions held, to enhance communication among those disciplines which can contribute to the understanding of affective touch, and by such other activities as may be decided upon by the Society.

2.2 The Society shall not engage in any activity intended to affect the professional status of its Members.

2.3 In furtherance of these aims the Society shall have the following powers:

- (a) to invest the monies of the Society not immediately required for its purposes in or upon such investments, securities or property as may be determined by the Society.
- (b) to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the attainment of the above aims.

## 3. Membership

3.1 Membership shall be open to anyone who can demonstrate a commitment to research on affective touch, normally but not exclusively indicated by well-established academic (e.g. PhD or equivalent), or clinical routes (e.g. clinical and professional doctorates, professional qualifications).

3.2 Associate membership shall be open to those with an interest in affective touch who do not meet the criteria for membership in 3.1 (e.g. trainees, postgraduate students including PhD students, research assistants, therapists). Associate members may attend meetings including the AGM but will not have voting rights.

3.3 The executive committee reserves the right to refuse or withdraw membership at its discretion subject to ratification by the AGM.

## 4. Election to Membership

4.1 Election to membership shall be by majority vote of the Executive Committee. In the event of votes being tied, the application shall fail.

4.2 In making application for Membership, applicants shall require the nomination of one Member of the Society.

## 5. Subscriptions

5.1 Each Member shall pay an annual subscription, the amount of such subscription to be determined by the Executive Committee, subject to ratification by the AGM.

5.2 The Executive Committee shall be at liberty to determine whatever further charges for attendance at meetings of the Society, or for publications, as it considers appropriate within the Aims of the Society.

5.3 Members who fail to pay the annual subscription will be deprived of their Membership upon the decision of the Executive Committee.

## **6. Executive Committee**

6.1 There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of four Officers and four Ordinary Members of the Committee, all of whom shall be Members of the Society.

6.2 The four Officers shall be a President, an Honorary Secretary, a Meetings Secretary and a Treasurer. The President shall be elected for three years and shall not be eligible for re-election within three years. The Honorary Secretary, Meetings Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for three years, after which each shall be immediately eligible for re-election, the maximum continuous tenure of office not to exceed six years.

6.3 Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee, including a US and a European Liaison Officer, shall be elected for three years and shall not be eligible for re-election within a further three years.

6.4 The President, Honorary Secretary, Meetings Secretary, Treasurer and Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by Members present at the Annual General Meeting. Candidates for these offices shall be proposed and seconded by at least two Members of the Society, such nominations to be received by the Honorary Secretary at least six weeks before the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being more than one candidate and the votes being equally divided, the President currently in office shall hold the deciding vote.

6.5 Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee assume office immediately following the Annual General Meeting at which they are elected. Officers may be elected one year in advance of taking up their duties, and co-opted to the Executive Committee.

6.6 The President or the President's nominee shall chair meetings of the Executive Committee, which shall be held on at least two occasions during the year, and no business shall be transacted without there being at least two Officers and two Ordinary members present (physically or electronically).

6.7 The Executive Committee shall have the power to form such other sub-committees as it considers fit.

6.8 Should funds allow it, the Executive Committee shall appoint an Archivist to maintain records of IASAT meetings and other matters of interest to the Society. The Archivist will receive details of and be entitled to attend all meetings of the Executive Committee. The post shall be reviewed not less than once every 6 years, when the Archivist shall present a report on material held in the IASAT archives.

## **7. Annual General Meeting**

7.1 An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held at a place and time to be determined by the Executive Committee, and frequently during the Society's congresses.

7.2 The President, or in the President's absence a member of the Executive Committee determined by the Executive Committee, shall take the chair at the Annual General Meeting, and no business shall be transacted without there being 20 members of the Society present.

7.3 The business to be transacted at the Annual General Meeting shall be:

- (a) Reports of the Officers;
- (b) Election of the Honorary Secretary, Meetings Secretary and Treasurer as necessary;
- (c) Election of Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee as necessary;
- (d) Voting upon formal resolutions, such resolutions to be proposed by Members of the Society and notified to the Honorary Secretary at least four weeks before the Annual General Meeting.

7.5 Elections and voting upon resolutions at the Annual General Meeting shall be by simple majority vote of those present, in the event of votes being tied the deciding vote held by the Member taking the chair.

7.6 It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee to ensure that sufficient nominations are obtained for all vacant offices to be filled, and to ensure that an accurate record is maintained of the business transacted at the Annual General Meeting.

## **8. Extraordinary General Meetings**

8.1 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be summoned at any time by the Executive Committee or upon the written request of at least 30 Members of the Society received by the Honorary Secretary.

8.2 Notice of the Extraordinary General Meeting, together with any resolutions duly proposed and seconded by two Members of the Society and notified to the Honorary Secretary at least four weeks before the date of the Meeting, shall be given in writing to all Members of the Society by

the Honorary Secretary at least two weeks before the date of the Meeting, which shall be no later than two calendar months following the receipt of any written request by the Honorary Secretary.

8.3 The President, or in the President's absence at Member of the Executive Committee determined by the Executive Committee, shall take the chair at the Extraordinary General Meeting, and no business shall be transacted other than any resolution duly notified to the Members, there being at least 40 members of the Society present.

8.4 Voting upon any resolution at an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be as for an Annual General Meeting.

## **9. Accounts**

9.1 The Treasurer shall present the accounts of the Society for the preceding calendar year at the Annual General Meeting.

## **10. Amendments to the Constitution**

10.1 This Constitution may be altered, amended, revoked or added to any manner and to any extent by a resolution of the Annual General Meeting or of an Extraordinary General Meeting specifically convened for that purpose.

10.2 Any proposed change to this Constitution shall be notified to Members in Annual General Meeting or of the Extraordinary General Meeting convened for that purpose.

10.3 Notwithstanding Rules 7.5 and 8.4, a resolution with the effect of changing the Constitution will require a two-thirds majority of those Members present and voting.

## **11. Dissolution of the Society**

11.1 A decision to dissolve the Society may only be made by resolution of the Annual General Meeting, or in the event that insufficient attendance precludes the holding of the Annual General Meeting by resolution of the Executive Committee.

11.2 In the event of the Society being dissolved, its assets will be disposed of by the Executive Committee in accordance with the Aims of the Society.