Rules of  
University of Canterbury MBA Graduate Association  
Incorporated

## Introductory rules

### The Society

The name of the society is University of Canterbury (UC) MBA Graduate Association Incorporated (in this **Constitution** referred to as the ‘**Society**’).

### Charitable status

The **Society** is not and does not intend to be registered as a charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005.

### Definitions

In this **Constitution**, unless the context requires otherwise, the following words and phrases have the following meanings:

**‘Act’** means the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 or any Act which replaces it (including amendments to it from time to time), and any regulations made under the Act or under any Act which replaces it.

**‘Annual General Meeting’** means a meeting of the **Members** of the **Society** held once per year which, among other things, will receive and consider reports on the **Society**’s activities and finances.

**‘Chairperson’** means the **Officer** responsible for chairing **General Meetings** and committee meetings, and who provides leadership for the **Society**.

**‘Committee’** means the **Society**’s governing body.

**‘Constitution’** means the rules in this document.

**‘General Meeting’** means either an **Annual General Meeting** or a **Special General Meeting** of the **Members** of the **Society**.

**‘Interested Member’** means a **Member** who is interested in a matter for any of the reasons set out in section 62 of the **Act**.

**‘Interests Register’** means the register of interests of **Officers**, kept under this **Constitution** and as required by section 73 of the **Act**.

‘**Majority vote**’ means a vote made by more than half of the Members who are present at a Meeting and who are entitled to vote and voting at that Meeting upon a resolution put to that Meeting.

**‘Matter’** means—

1. the **Society’s** performance of its activities or exercise of its powers; or
2. an arrangement, agreement, or contract (a transaction) made or entered into, or proposed to be entered into, by the **Society**.

**‘Money or Other Assets’** means any real or personal property or any interest therein, owned or controlled to any extent by the Society.

**‘Member’** means a person who has consented to become a **Member** of the **Society** and has been properly admitted to the **Society** who has not ceased to be a **Member** of the **Society**.

**‘Notice’** to **Members** includes any notice given by email, post, or courier.

**‘Officer’** means a natural person who is:

1. a member of the **Committee**, or
2. occupying a position in the **Society** that allows them to exercise significant influence over the management or administration of the **Society**, including any Chief Executive or Treasurer.

**‘Register of Members’** means the register of **Members** kept under this **Constitution** as required by section 79 of the **Act**.

**‘Secretary’** means the **Officer** responsible for the matters specifically noted in this **Constitution**.

**‘Special General Meeting’** means a meeting of the **Members,** other than an **Annual General Meeting,** called for a specific purpose or purposes.

**‘Society Meeting’** means any Annual General Meeting, or any Special General Meeting, but not a Committee Meeting.

**‘Use Money or Other Assets’** means to use, handle, invest, transfer, give, apply, expend, dispose of, or in any other way deal with, Money or Other Assets.

**‘Working Days’** mean as defined in the Legislation Act 2019. Examples of days that are not **Working Days** include, but are not limited to, the following — a Saturday, a Sunday, Waitangi Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, ANZAC Day, the Sovereign’s birthday, Te Rā Aro ki a Matariki/Matariki Observance Day, and Labour Day.

**‘Written Notice’** means communication by post, electronic means (including email, and website posting), or advertisement in periodicals, or a combination of these methods.

It is assumed that

1. Where a masculine is used, the feminine is included
2. Where the singular is used, plural forms of the noun are also inferred
3. Headings are a matter of reference and not a part of the rules

Matters not covered in these rules shall be decided upon by the Committee.

### Purposes of Society

The UC MBA Graduate Association exists to cultivate a dynamic, inclusive community of alumni dedicated to lifelong learning, global engagement, and positive societal impact. We foster professional development, celebrate alumni achievement, and create opportunities for meaningful collaboration through events, mentoring, and thought leadership.

Our purpose is to:

1. **Advance Lifelong Learning** Champion continuous education, leadership development, and access to current business thinking through alumni-led events, resources, and insights.
2. **Promote Meaningful Connections** Strengthen relationships among alumni, faculty, students, and industry to build a powerful professional network grounded in shared experience and values.
3. **Support Career Growth and Mentorship** Offer mentoring, networking, and peer-to-peer support to help alumni and current students navigate challenges and opportunities throughout their careers.
4. **Celebrate Alumni Excellence** Recognise and amplify the achievements of UC MBA graduates who demonstrate leadership, innovation, and impact in business and society.
5. **Enhance the UC MBA Brand and Community Impact** Elevate the profile of the UC MBA and contribute to New Zealand’s economic and social development through alumni-led initiatives and partnerships.
6. **Lead the “Think UC First” Campaign** Spearhead a culture of collaboration by encouraging alumni to “Think UC First” for projects, partnerships, internships, and mentoring - leveraging the collective intelligence and expertise of the UC MBA network.
7. **Champion Global and Local Engagement** Connect alumni across borders and industries, fostering a global mindset while remaining rooted in local impact.

The **Society** must not operate for the purpose of, or with the effect of—

1. distributing, any gain, profit, surplus, dividend, or other similar financial benefit to any of its **Members** (whether in money or in kind); or
2. having capital that is divided into shares or stock held by its **Members**; or
3. holding, property in which its members have a disposable interest (whether directly, or in the form of shares or stock in the capital of the society or otherwise).

But the **Society** will not operate for the financial gain of **Members** simply if the **Society**—

1. engages in trade,
2. pays a **Member** for matters that are incidental to the purposes of the **Society**, and the **Member** is a not-for-profit entity,
3. distributes funds to a **Member** to further the purposes of the **Society**, and the **Member**—
   1. is a not-for-profit entity, and
   2. is affiliated or closely related to the **Society**, and
   3. has the same, or substantially the same, purposes as those of the **Society**.
4. reimburses a **Member** for reasonable expenses legitimately incurred on behalf of the **Society** or while pursuing the **Society**’s purposes,
5. provides benefits to members of the public or of a class of the public and those persons include **Members** or their families,
6. provides benefits to **Members** or their families to alleviate hardship,
7. provides educational scholarships or grants to **Members** or their families,
8. pays a **Member** a salary or wages or other payments for services to the **Society** on arm’s length terms (terms reasonable in the circumstances if the parties were connected or related only by the transaction in question, each acting independently, and each acting in its own best interests; or are terms less favourable to the **Member** than those terms and the payment for services, or other transaction, does not include any share of a gain, profit, or surplus, percentage of revenue, or other reward in connection with any gain, profit, surplus, or revenue of the **Society**),
9. provides a **Member** with incidental benefits (for example, trophies, prizes, or discounts on products or services) in accordance with the purposes of the **Society**.
10. on removal of the **Society** from the Register of Incorporated Societies having its surplus assets distributed under subpart 5 of Part 5 of the **Act** to a **Member** that is a not-for-profit entity.

### Act and Regulations

Nothing in this **Constitution** authorises the **Society** to do anything which contravenes or is inconsistent with the **Act**, any regulations made under the **Act**, or any other legislation.

### Restrictions on society powers

The **Society** must not be carried on for the financial gain of any of its members.

### Additional powers

The Society may:

1. Employ people for the purposes of the Society;
2. Exercise any power a trustee might exercise;
3. Invest in any investment that a trustee might invest in;
4. Borrow money and provide security for that if authorised by Majority vote at any Society Meeting.

### Registered office

The registered office of the **Society** shall be at such place in New Zealand as the **Committee** from time to time determines.

The Registered Office of the Society is **University of Canterbury MBA Programme, 20 Kirkwood Ave, Ilam, Christchurch 8041**

Changes to the registered office shall be notified to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies—

1. at least 5 working days before the change of address for the registered office is due to take effect, and
2. in a form and as required by the **Act**.

### Contact person

The **Society** shall have at least 1 but no more than 3 contact person(s) whom the Registrar can contact when needed.

The **Society**’s contact person must be:

1. At least 18 years of age, and
2. Ordinarily resident in New Zealand.

A contact person can be appointed by the **Committee** or elected by the **Members** at a **General Meeting**.

Each contact person’s name must be provided to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies, along with their contact details, including:

1. a physical address or an electronic address, and
2. a telephone number.

Any change in that contact person or that person’s name or contact details shall be advised to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies within 20 **Working Days** of that change occurring, or the **Society** becoming aware of the change.

## General meetings

### Procedures for all general meetings

The **Committee** shall give all **Members** at least **14** **Working Days**’ written **Notice** of any **General Meeting** and of the business to be conducted at that **General Meeting**.

That **Notice** will be addressed to the **Member** at the contact address notified to the **Society** and recorded in the **Society’s** register of members. The **General Meeting** and its business will not be invalidated simply because one or more **Members** do not receive the **Notice** of the **General Meeting**.

All **Members** may attend, speak and vote at **General Meetings**—

1. in person, or
2. by a signed original written proxy (an email or copy not being acceptable) in favour of some individual entitled to be present at the meeting and received by, or handed to, the **Committee** before the commencement of the **General Meeting,** or
3. through the authorised representative of a body corporate as notified to the **Committee**, and
4. no other proxy voting shall be permitted.

No **General Meeting** may be held unless at least 5 percent of eligible financial **Members** attend throughout the meeting and this will constitute a quorum.

If, within half an hour after the time appointed for a meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting – if convened upon request of **Members** – shall be dissolved. In any other case it shall stand adjourned to a day, time and place determined by the **Chairperson** of the **Society**, and if at such adjourned meeting a quorum is not present those **Members** present in person or by proxy shall be deemed to constitute a sufficient quorum.

A **Member** is entitled to exercise one vote on any motion at a **General Meeting** in person or by proxy, and voting at a **General Meeting** shall be by voices or by show of hands or, on demand of the chairperson or of 2 or more **Members** present, by secret ballot.

Unless otherwise required by this **Constitution**, all questions shall be decided by a simple majority of those in attendance in person or by proxy and voting at a **General Meeting** or voting by remote ballot.

Any decisions made when a quorum is not present are not valid.

The **Society** may pass a written resolution in lieu of a **General Meeting**, and a written resolution is as valid for the purposes of the **Act** and this **Constitution** as if it had been passed at a **General Meeting** if it is approved by no less than 75 percent of the **Members** who are entitled to vote on the resolution. A written resolution may consist of 1 or more documents in similar form (including letters, electronic mail, or other similar means of communication) each proposed by or on behalf of 1 or more **Members**. A **Member** may give their approval to a written resolution by signing the resolution or giving approval to the resolution in any other manner permitted by the **Constitution** (for example, by electronic means).

1. **General Meetings** may be held at one or more venues by **Members** present in person and/or using any real-time audio, audio and visual, or electronic communication that gives each **Member** a reasonable opportunity to participate.
2. All **General Meetings** shall be chaired by the **Chairperson**. If the **Chairperson** is absent, the meeting shall elect another member of the **Committee** to chair that meeting.
3. The **Committee** may propose motions for the **Society** to vote on (**‘Committee Motions’**), which shall be notified to **Members** with the notice of the **General Meeting.**
4. Any **Member** may request that a motion be voted on (**‘Member’s Motion’**) at a **General Meeting**, by giving notice to the **Secretary** or **Committee** at least 9 **Working Days** before that meeting. The **Member** may also provide information in support of the motion (**‘Member’s Information’**). If notice of the motion is given to the **Secretary** or **Committee** before written **Notice** of the **General Meeting** is given to **Members**, notice of the motion shall be provided to **Members** with the written **Notice** of the **General Meeting**.

### Minutes

The **Society** must keep minutes of all **General Meetings**.

### Annual General Meetings: when they will be held

An **Annual General Meeting** shall be held once a year on a date and at a location and/or using any electronic communication determined by the **Committee** and consistent with any requirements in the **Act**, and the **Constitution** relating to the procedure to be followed at **General Meetings** shall apply.

The **Annual General Meeting** must be held no later than the earlier of the following—

1. 6 months after the balance date of the **Society**
2. 15 months after the previous annual meeting.

### Annual General Meetings: business

The business of an **Annual General Meeting** shall be to—

1. confirm the minutes of the last **Annual General Meeting** and any **Special General Meeting**(s) held since the last **Annual General Meeting**,
2. adopt the annual report on the operations and affairs of the **Society**,
3. adopt the **Committee’s** report on the finances of the **Society**, and the annual financial statements,
4. set any subscriptions for the current financial year,
5. consider any motions of which prior notice has been given to **Members** with notice of the **Meeting**, and
6. consider any general business.

The **Committee** must, at each **Annual** **General** **Meeting**, present the following information—

1. an annual report on the operation and affairs of the **Society** during the most recently completed accounting period,
2. the annual financial statements for that period, and
3. notice of any disclosures of conflicts of interest made by **Officers** during that period (including a summary of the matters, or types of matters, to which those disclosures relate).

### Special General Meetings

**Special** **General** **Meetings** may be called at any time by the **Committee** by resolution.

The **Committee** must call a **Special** **General** **Meeting** if it receives a written request signed by at least 10 percent of **Members**.

Any resolution or written request must state the business that the **Special** **General** **Meeting** is to deal with.

The rules in this **Constitution** relating to the procedure to be followed at **General** **Meetings** shall apply to a **Special** **General** **Meeting**, and a **Special** **General** **Meeting** shall only consider and deal with the business specified in the **Committee’s** resolution or the written request by **Members** for the **Meeting**.

## Committee

### Committee composition

The Society shall have a managing committee (“the Committee”), comprising both Officers and Committee Members:

1. The Chairperson;
2. Membership Officer;
3. The Treasurer; and
4. Such other Members as the Society shall decide.

Only Members of the Society may be Committee Members.

There shall be a minimum of six Committee Members, including the three Officers.

### Functions of the committee

From the end of each **Annual General Meeting** until the end of the next, the **Society** shall be managed by, or under the direction or supervision of, the **Committee**, in accordance with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022, any Regulations made under that **Act**, and this **Constitution**.

Subject to the rules of the Society (“The Rules”), the role of the Committee is to:

1. Administer, manage, and control the Society;
2. Carry out the purposes of the Society, and Use Money or Other Assets to do that;
3. Manage the Society’s financial affairs, including approving the annual financial statements for presentation to the Members at the Annual General Meetings;
4. Set accounting policies in line with generally accepted accounting practice
5. Delegate responsibility and co-opt members where necessary
6. Ensure that all Members follow the Rules;
7. Decide how a person becomes a Member, and how a person stops being a Member;
8. Decide the times and dates for Meetings, and set the agenda for Meetings;
9. Decide the procedures for dealing with complaints;
10. Set Membership fees, including subscriptions and levies;
11. Make regulations.

The Committee has all of the powers of the Society, unless the Committee’s power is limited by these Rules, or by a majority decision of the Society.

All decisions of the Committee shall be by a majority vote. In the event of an equal vote, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote, that is, a second vote.

Decisions of the Committee bind the Society, unless the Committee’s power is limited by these Rules or by a majority decision of the Society

### Powers of the committee

The **Committee** has all the powers necessary for managing — and for directing and supervising the management of — the operation and affairs of the **Society**, subject to such modifications, exceptions, or limitations as are contained in the **Act** or in this **Constitution**.

## Committee meetings

### Procedure

The quorum for **Committee** meetings is at least half the number of members of the **Committee**.

A meeting of the **Committee** may be held either—

1. by a number of the members of the **Committee** who constitute a quorum, being assembled together at the place, date and time appointed for the meeting; or
2. by means of audio, or audio and visual, communication by which all members of the **Committee** participating and constituting a quorum can simultaneously hear each other throughout the meeting.

A resolution of the **Committee** is passed at any meeting of the **Committee** if a majority of the votes cast on it are in favour of the resolution. Every **Officer** on the **Committee** shall have one vote.

The members of the **Committee** shall elect one of their number as chairperson of the **Committee**. If at a meeting of the **Committee**, the chairperson is not present, the members of the **Committee** present may choose one of their number to be chairperson of the meeting. The chairperson does have a casting vote in the event of a tied vote on any resolution of the **Committee**.

Except as otherwise provided in this **Constitution**, the **Committee** may regulate its own procedure.

### Frequency

The **Committee** shall meet at least monthly (but need only meet once in the December-January period) at such times and places and in such manner (including by audio, audio and visual, or electronic communication) as it may determine and otherwise where and as convened by the **Chairperson** or **Secretary**.

The **Secretary**, or other **Committee** member nominated by the **Committee**, shall give to all **Committee** members not less than 5 **Working Days’** notice of **Committee** meetings, but in cases of urgency a shorter period of notice shall suffice.

## Officers

### Qualifications of officers

Every **Officer** must be a natural person who—

1. has consented in writing to be an officer of the **Society**, and
2. certifies that they are not disqualified from being elected or appointed or otherwise holding office as an **Officer** of the **Society**.

**Officers** must not be disqualified under section 47(3) of the **Act** from being appointed or holding office as an **Officer** of the **Society**, namely—

1. a person who is under 16 years of age
2. a person who is an undischarged bankrupt
3. a person who is prohibited from being a director or promoter of, or being concerned or taking part in the management of, an incorporated or unincorporated body under the Companies Act 1993, the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013, or the Takeovers Act 1993, or any other similar legislation
4. A person who is disqualified from being a member of the governing body of a charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005
5. a person who has been convicted of any of the following, and has been sentenced for the offence, within the last 7 years—
6. an offence under subpart 6 of Part 4 of the **Act**
7. a crime involving dishonesty (within the meaning of section 2(1) of the Crimes Act 1961)
8. an offence under section 143B of the Tax Administration Act 1994
9. an offence, in a country other than New Zealand, that is substantially similar to an offence specified in subparagraphs (1) to (3)
10. a money laundering offence or an offence relating to the financing of terrorism, whether in New Zealand or elsewhere
11. a person subject to:
    1. a banning order under subpart 7 of Part 4 of the **Act**,or
    2. an order under section 108 of the Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003, or
    3. a forfeiture order under the Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Act 2009, or
    4. a property order made under the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988, or whose property is managed by a trustee corporation under section 32 of that Act.
12. a person who is subject to an order that is substantially similar to an order referred to in paragraph (6) under a law of a country, State, or territory outside New Zealand that is a country, State, or territory prescribed by the regulations (if any) of the **Act**.

Prior to election or appointment as an **Officer** a person must—

1. consent in writing to be an **Officer**, and
2. certify in writing that they are not disqualified from being elected or appointed as an **Officer** either by this **Constitution** or the **Act**.

Note that only a natural person may be an **Officer** and each certificate shall be retained in the **Society’s** records.

### Officers' duties

The Chairperson is responsible for:

1. Ensuring that the Rules are followed;
2. Convening Meetings and establishing whether or not a quorum (half plus one of the Committee) is present;
3. Chairing Meetings, deciding who may speak and when;
4. Overseeing the operation of the Society;
5. Providing a report on the operations of the Society at each Annual General Meeting.

The Membership Officer is responsible for:

1. Recording the minutes of Meetings;
2. Keeping the Register of Members;
3. Holding the Society's records, documents, and books except those required for the Treasurer’s function;
4. Receiving and replying to correspondence as required by the Committee;
5. Forwarding the annual financial statements for the Society to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies upon their approval by the Members at an Annual General Meeting.
6. Advising the Registrar of Incorporated Societies of any rule changes;

The Treasurer is responsible for:

1. Keeping proper accounting records of the Society’s financial transactions to allow the Society’s financial position to be readily ascertained;
2. Preparing annual financial statements for presentation at each Annual General Meeting. These statements should be prepared in accordance with the Societies’ accounting policies;
3. Providing a financial report at each Annual General Meeting;

Providing financial information to the Committee as the Committee determines.

### Committee Members’ duties

At all times each **Committee Member**:

1. shall act in good faith and in what he or she believes to be the best interests of the **Society**,
2. must exercise all powers for a proper purpose,
3. must not act, or agree to the **Society** acting, in a manner that contravenes the **Act** or this **Constitution**,
4. when exercising powers or performing duties as an **Officer**, must exercise the care and diligence that a reasonable person with the same responsibilities would exercise in the same circumstances taking into account, but without limitation:
5. the nature of the **Society**,
6. the nature of the decision, and
7. the position of the **Officer** and the nature of the responsibilities undertaken by him or her
8. must not agree to the activities of the **Society** being carried on in a manner likely to create a substantial risk of serious loss to the **Society** or to the **Society’s** creditors, or cause or allow the activities of the **Society** to be carried on in a manner likely to create a substantial risk of serious loss to the **Society** or to the **Society’s** creditors, and
9. must not agree to the **Society** incurring an obligation unless he or she believes at that time on reasonable grounds that the **Society** will be able to perform the obligation when it is required to do so.

### Election or appointment of officers

The election of **Officers** shall be conducted as follows.

1. **Officers** shall be elected during **Annual General Meetings**. However, if a vacancy in the position of any **Officer** occurs between **Annual General Meetings,** that vacancy shall be filled by resolution of the **Committee** (and any such appointee must, before appointment, supply a signed consent to appointment and a certificate that the nominee is not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a **Officer** (as described in the ‘Qualification of Officers’ rule above). Any such appointment must be ratified at the next **Annual General Meeting**.
2. A candidate’s verbal or written nomination, accompanied by the minuted consent of the nominee with a certificate that the nominee is not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as a **Officer** (as described in the ‘Qualification of Officers’ rule above) shall be received by the **Society** at least 30 **Working Days** before the date of the **Annual General Meeting**. If there are insufficient valid nominations received, further nominations may be received from the floor at the **Annual General Meeting**.
3. Votes shall be cast in such a manner as the person chairing the meeting determines. In the event of any vote being tied, the tie shall be resolved by the incoming **Committee** (excluding those in respect of whom the votes are tied).
4. Two **Members** (who are not nominees) or non-**Members** appointed by the **Chairperson** shall act as scrutineers for the counting of the votes and destruction of any voting papers.
5. The failure for any reason of any financial **Member** to receive such **Notice** of the general meeting shall not invalidate the election.
6. In addition to **Officers** elected under the foregoing provisions of this rule, the **Committee** may appoint other **Officers** for a specific purpose, or for a limited period, or generally until the next **Annual General Meeting**. Unless otherwise specified by the **Committee** any person so appointed shall have full speaking and voting rights as an **Officer** of the **Society**. Any such appointee must, before appointment, supply a signed consent to appointment and a certificate that the nominee is not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as an **Officer** (as described in the ‘Qualification of Officers’ rule above).

### Term

The term of office for all **Officers** elected to the **Committee** shall be 1 year(s), expiring at the end of the **Annual General Meeting** in the year corresponding with the last year of each **Officer’s** term of office.

### Removal of officers

An **Officer** shall be removed as an **Officer** by resolution of the **Committee** or the **Society** where in the opinion of the **Committee** or the **Society** —

1. The **Officer** elected to the **Committee** has been absent from 3 committee meetings without leave of absence from the **Committee**.
2. The **Officer** has brought the **Society** into disrepute.
3. The **Committee** passes a vote of no confidence in the **Officer**.

with effect from (as applicable) the date specified in a resolution of the **Committee** or **Society**.

### Conflicts of interest

An **Officer** or member of a sub-committee who is an **Interested Member** in respect of any **Matter** being considered by the **Society**, must disclose details of the nature and extent of the interest (including any monetary value of the interest if it can be quantified)—

1. to the **Committee** and or sub-committee, and
2. in an **Interests Register** kept by the **Committee**.

Disclosure must be made as soon as practicable after the **Officer** or member of a sub-committee becomes aware that they are interested in the **Matter**.

An **Officer** or member of a sub-committee who is an **Interested Member** regarding a **Matter**—

1. must not vote or take part in the decision of the **Committee** and/or sub-committee relating to the **Matter** unless all members of the **Committee** who are not interested in the **Matter** consent; and
2. must not sign any document relating to the entry into a transaction or the initiation of the **Matter** unless all members of the **Committee** who are not interested in the **Matter** consent; but
3. may take part in any discussion of the **Committee** and/or sub-committee relating to the **Matter** and be present at the time of the decision of the **Committee** and/or sub-committee (unless the **Committee** and/or sub-committee decides otherwise).

However, an **Officer** or member of a sub-committee who is prevented from voting on a **Matter** may still be counted for the purpose of determining whether there is a quorum at any meeting at which the **Matter** is considered.

Where 50 per cent or more of **Officers** are prevented from voting on a **Matter** because they are interested in that **Matter**, a **Special General Meeting** must be called to consider and determine the **Matter**, unless all non-interested **Officers** agree otherwise.

Where 50 per cent or more of the members of a sub-committee are prevented from voting on a **Matter** because they are interested in that **Matter**, the **Committee** shall consider and determine the **Matter**.

## Records

### Types of Members

1. Membership may comprise different classes of membership as decided by the Society.
2. Members have the rights and responsibilities set out in these Rules.

### Admission of Members

To become a Member, a person (“the Applicant”) must:

1. Complete an application form, if the Rules, Bylaws or Committee requires this; and
2. Supply any other information the Committee requires; and
3. Be a graduate of the University of Canterbury Master of Business Administration Programme.

The Committee may assess the Applicant when it considers Membership applications.

The Committee shall have complete discretion when it decides whether or not to allow the Applicant to become a Member. The Committee shall advise the Applicant of its decision, and that decision shall be final.

### Register of Members

The **Society** shall keep an up-to-date Register of Members.

For each current **Member**, the information contained in the Register of Members shall include —

1. Their name, and
2. The date on which they became a **Member** (if there is no record of the date they joined, this date will be recorded as ‘Unknown’), and
3. Their contact details, including —
4. A physical address or an electronic address, and
5. A telephone number.

The register will also include each **Member's** —

1. email address (if any)

Every current **Member** shall promptly advise the **Society** of any change of the **Member’s** contact details.

The **Society** shall also keep a record of the former **Members** of the **Society**. For each **Member** who ceased to be a **Member** within the previous 7 years, the **Society** will record:

1. The former **Member's** name, and
2. The date the former **Member** ceased to be a **Member**.

### Interests Register

The **Committee** shall at all times maintain an up-to-date register of the interests disclosed by **Officers** and by members of any sub-committee.

### Access to information for members

A **Member** may at any time make a written request to the **Society** for information held by the **Society**.

The request must specify the information sought in sufficient detail to enable the information to be identified.

The **Society** must, within a reasonable time after receiving a request —

1. provide the information, or
2. agree to provide the information within a specified period, or
3. agree to provide the information within a specified period if the **Member** pays a reasonable charge to the **Society** (which must be specified and explained) to meet the cost of providing the information, or
4. refuse to provide the information, specifying the reasons for the refusal.

Without limiting the reasons for which the **Society** may refuse to provide the information, the **Society** may refuse to provide the information if —

1. withholding the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons, or
2. the disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial position of the **Society** or of any of its **Members**, or
3. the disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the financial or commercial position of any other person, whether or not that person supplied the information to the **Society**, or
4. the information is not relevant to the operation or affairs of the society, or
5. withholding the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege, or
6. the disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, breach an enactment, or
7. the burden to the **Society** in responding to the request is substantially disproportionate to any benefit that the **Member** (or any other person) will or may receive from the disclosure of the information, or
8. the request for the information is frivolous or vexatious, or
9. the request seeks information about a dispute or complaint which is or has been the subject of the procedures for resolving such matters under this **Constitution** and the **Act**.

If the **Society** requires the **Member** to pay a charge for the information, the **Member** may withdraw the request, and must be treated as having done so unless, within 10 **Working Days** after receiving notification of the charge, the **Member** informs the **Society** —

1. that the **Member** will pay the charge; or
2. that the **Member** considers the charge to be unreasonable.

Nothing in this rule limits Information Privacy Principle 6 of the Privacy Act 2020 relating to access to personal information.

### Cessation of Membership

Any Member may resign by giving written notice to the Membership Officer.

Membership terminated in the following way:

1. If, for any reason whatsoever, the Committee is of the view that a Member is breaching the Rules or acting in a manner inconsistent with the purposes of the Society, the Committee may give written notice of this to the Member (“the Committee’s Notice”). The Committee’s Notice must:
   1. Explain how the Member is breaching the Rules or acting in a manner inconsistent with the purposes of the Society;
   2. State what the Member must do in order to remedy the situation; or state that the Member must write to the Committee giving reasons why the Committee should not terminate the Member’s Membership.
   3. State that if, within 14 days of the Member receiving the Committee’s Notice, the Committee is not satisfied, the Committee may in its absolute discretion immediately terminate the Member’s Membership.
   4. State that if the Committee terminates the Member’s Membership, the Member may appeal to the Society.
2. Fourteen days after the Member received the Committee’s Notice, the Committee may in its absolute discretion by majority vote terminate the Member’s Membership by giving the Member written notice (“Termination Notice”), which takes immediate effect. The Termination Notice must state that the Member may appeal to the Society at the next Meeting by giving written notice to the Membership Officer (“Member’s Notice”) within 14 days of the Member’s receipt of the Termination Notice.
3. If the Member gives the Member’s Notice to the Membership Officer, the Member will have the right to be fairly heard at a Society Meeting held within the following 28 days. If the Member chooses, the Member may provide the Membership Officer with a written explanation of the events as the Member sees them (“the Member’s Explanation”), and the Member may require the Membership Officer to give the Member’s Explanation to every other Member within 7 days of the Membership Officer receiving the Member’s Explanation. If the Member is not satisfied that the other Society Members have had sufficient time to consider the Member’s Explanation, the Member may defer his or her right to be heard until the following Society Meeting.
4. When the Member is heard at a Society Meeting, the Society may question the Member and the Committee Members.
5. The Society shall then by majority vote decide whether to let the termination stand, or whether to reinstate the Member. The Society’s decision will be final.

### Obligations of Members

All Members (and Committee Members) shall promote the purposes of the Society and shall do nothing to bring the Society into disrepute.

## Finances

### Control and management

The funds and property of the **Society** shall be—

1. controlled, invested and disposed of by the **Committee**, subject to this **Constitution**, and
2. devoted solely to the promotion of the purposes of the **Society**.

The **Committee** shall maintain bank accounts in the name of the **Society**.

All money received on account of the **Society** shall be banked within 10 **Working Days** of receipt.

All accounts paid or for payment shall be submitted to the **Committee** for approval of payment.

The **Committee** must ensure that there are kept at all times accounting records that—

1. correctly record the transactions of the **Society**, and
2. allow the **Society** to produce financial statements that comply with the requirements of the **Act**, and
3. would enable the financial statements to be readily and properly audited (if required under any legislation or the **Society's** **Constitution**).

The **Committee** must establish and maintain a satisfactory system of control of the **Society's** accounting records.

The accounting records must be kept in written form or in a form or manner that is easily accessible and convertible into written form. And the accounting records must be kept for the current accounting period and for the last 7 completed accounting periods of the **Society**.

### Balance date

The **Society**'s financial year shall commence on 01/04 of each year and end on 31/03 (the latter date being the **Society**’s balance date).

### Assurance on the Financial Statements

The Society may appoint an accountant to review the annual financial statements of the Society (“the Reviewer”). The Reviewer shall conduct an examination with the objective of providing a report that nothing has come to the Reviewer’s attention to cause the Reviewer to believe that the financial information is not presented in accordance with the Society’s accounting policies. The Reviewer must be a suitably qualified person, preferably a member of the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants, and must not be a member of the Committee, or an employee of the Society. If the Society appoints a Reviewer who is unable to act for some reason, the Committee shall appoint another Reviewer as a replacement.

The Committee is responsible to provide the Reviewer with:

1. Access to all information of which the Committee is aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters
2. Additional information that the reviewer may request from the Committee for the purpose of the review; and
3. Reasonable access to persons within the Society from whom the reviewer determines it necessary to obtain evidence.

The Society may appoint an Auditor to audit the annual financial statements of the Society. The Auditor may report on whether the financial statements are prepared in all material respects in accordance with the Society’s accounting policies. The Auditor must be a suitably qualified person. and preferably be a member of the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants, and must not be a member of the Committee, or an employee of the Society. If the Society appoints an Auditor who is unable to act for some reason, the Committee shall appoint another Auditor as a replacement.  
The Committee is responsible to provide the auditor with:

1. Access to all information of which the Committee is aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters
2. Additional information that the auditor may request from the Committee for the purpose of the audit; and
3. Reasonable access to persons within the Society from whom the auditor determines it necessary to obtain evidence.

No review or audit of the annual financial statements is required unless a review or audit is requested by a majority (51%) of the Members at any properly convened Society Meeting.

## Dispute resolution

### Meanings of dispute and complaint

A dispute is a disagreement or conflict involving the **Society** and/or its **Members** in relation to specific allegations set out below.

The disagreement or conflict may be between any of the following persons—

1. 2 or more **Members**
2. 1 or more **Members** and the **Society**
3. 1 or more **Members** and 1 or more **Officers**
4. 2 or more **Officers**
5. 1 or more **Officers** and the **Society**
6. 1 or more **Members** or **Officers** and the **Society**.

The disagreement or conflict relates to any of the following allegations—

1. a **Member** or an **Officer** has engaged in misconduct
2. a **Member** or an **Officer** has breached, or is likely to breach, a duty under the **Society's** **Constitution** or bylaws or the **Act**
3. the **Society** has breached, or is likely to breach, a duty under the **Society's** **Constitution** or bylaws or the **Act**
4. a **Member's** rights or interests as a **Member** have been damaged or **Member's** rights or interests generally have been damaged.

A **Member** or an **Officer** may make a complaint by giving to the **Committee** (or a complaints subcommittee) a notice in writing that—

1. states that the **Member** or **Officer** is starting a procedure for resolving a dispute in accordance with the **Society's** **Constitution**; and
2. sets out the allegation(s) to which the dispute relates and whom the allegation or allegations is or are against; and
3. sets out any other information or allegations reasonably required by the **Society**.

The **Society** may make a complaint involving an allegation against a **Member** or an **Officer** by giving to the **Member** or **Officer** a notice in writing that—

1. states that the **Society** is starting a procedure for resolving a dispute in accordance with the **Society's** **Constitution**; and
2. sets out the allegation to which the dispute relates.

The information setting out the allegations must be sufficiently detailed to ensure that a person against whom an allegation or allegations is made is fairly advised of the allegation or allegations concerning them, with sufficient details given to enable that person to prepare a response.

A complaint may be made in any other reasonable manner permitted by the **Society's** **Constitution**.

All **Members** (including the **Committee**) are obliged to cooperate to resolve disputes efficiently, fairly, and with minimum disruption to the **Society's** activities.

The complainant raising a dispute, and the **Committee**, must consider and discuss whether a dispute may best be resolved through informal discussions, mediation, arbitration, or a tikanga-based practice. Where mediation or arbitration is agreed on, the parties will sign a suitable mediation or arbitration agreement.

### How complaint is made

1. A **Member** or an **Officer** may make a complaint by giving to the **Committee** (or a complaints subcommittee) a notice in writing that—
   * 1. states that the **Member** or **Officer** is starting a procedure for resolving a dispute in accordance with the **Society**’s **Constitution**; and
     2. sets out the allegation or allegations to which the dispute relates and whom the allegation is against; and
     3. sets out any other information reasonably required by the **Society**.
2. The **Society** may make a complaint involving an allegation or allegations against a **Member** or an **Officer** by giving to the **Member** or **Officer** a notice in writing that—
   * 1. states that the Society is starting a procedure for resolving a dispute in accordance with the Society’s Constitution; and
     2. sets out the allegation to which the dispute relates.
3. The information given under subclause (1b.) or (2b.) must be sufficient to ensure that a person against whom an allegation is made is fairly advised of the allegation or allegations concerning them, with sufficient details given to enable that person to prepare a response.
4. A complaint may be made in any other reasonable manner permitted by the **Society**’s **Constitution**.

### Person who makes complaint has right to be heard

1. A **Member** or an **Officer** who makes a complaint has a right to be heard before the complaint is resolved or any outcome is determined.
2. If the **Society** makes a complaint—
3. the **Society** has a right to be heard before the complaint is resolved or any outcome is determined; and
4. an **Officer** may exercise that right on behalf of the **Society**.
5. Without limiting the manner in which the **Member**, **Officer**, or **Society** may be given the right to be heard, they must be taken to have been given the right if—
6. they have a reasonable opportunity to be heard in writing or at an oral hearing (if one is held); and
7. an oral hearing is held if the decision maker considers that an oral hearing is needed to ensure an adequate hearing; and
8. an oral hearing (if any) is held before the decision maker; and
9. the **Member**’s, **Officer**’s, or **Society**’s written or verbal statement or submissions (if any) are considered by the decision maker.

### Person who is subject of complaint has right to be heard

1. This clause applies if a complaint involves an allegation that a **Member**, an **Officer**, or the **Society** (the ‘respondent’)—
   1. has engaged in misconduct; or
   2. has breached, or is likely to breach, a duty under the **Society’s Constitution** or bylaws or this **Act**; or
   3. has damaged the rights or interests of a **Member** or the rights or interests of **Members** generally.
2. The respondent has a right to be heard before the complaint is resolved or any outcome is determined.
3. If the respondent is the **Society**, an **Officer** may exercise the right on behalf of the **Society**.
4. Without limiting the manner in which a respondent may be given a right to be heard, a respondent must be taken to have been given the right if—
   1. the respondent is fairly advised of all allegations concerning the respondent, with sufficient details and time given to enable the respondent to prepare a response; and
   2. the respondent has a reasonable opportunity to be heard in writing or at an oral hearing (if one is held); and
   3. an oral hearing is held if the decision maker considers that an oral hearing is needed to ensure an adequate hearing; and
   4. an oral hearing (if any) is held before the decision maker; and
   5. the respondent’s written statement or submissions (if any) are considered by the decision maker.

### Investigating and determining dispute

1. The **Society** must, as soon as is reasonably practicable after receiving or becoming aware of a complaint made in accordance with its **Constitution**, ensure that the dispute is investigated and determined.
2. Disputes must be dealt with under the **Constitution** in a fair, efficient, and effective manner and in accordance with the provisions of the **Act**.

### Society may decide not to proceed further with complaint

Despite the ‘Investigating and determining dispute’ rule above, the **Society** may decide not to proceed further with a complaint if—

1. the complaint is considered to be trivial; or
2. the complaint does not appear to disclose or involve any allegation of the following kind:
3. that a **Member** or an **Officer** has engaged in material misconduct:
4. that a **Member**, an **Officer**, or the **Society** has materially breached, or is likely to materially breach, a duty under the **Society**’s **Constitution** or bylaws or the **Act**:
5. that a **Member**’s rights or interests or **Members**’ rights or interests generally have been materially damaged:
6. the complaint appears to be without foundation or there is no apparent evidence to support it; or
7. the person who makes the complaint has an insignificant interest in the matter; or
8. the conduct, incident, event, or issue giving rise to the complaint has already been investigated and dealt with under the **Constitution**; or
9. there has been an undue delay in making the complaint.

### Society may refer complaint

1. The **Society** may refer a complaint to—
2. a subcommittee or an external person to investigate and report; or
3. a subcommittee, an arbitral tribunal, or an external person to investigate and make a decision.
4. The **Society** may, with the consent of all parties to a complaint, refer the complaint to any type of consensual dispute resolution (for example, mediation, facilitation, or a tikanga-based practice).

### Decision makers

A person may not act as a decision maker in relation to a complaint if 2 or more members of the **Committee** or a complaints subcommittee consider that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person may not be—

1. impartial; or
2. able to consider the matter without a predetermined view.

## Liquidation and removal from the register

### Surplus assets

If the **Society** is liquidated or removed from the Register of Incorporated Societies, no distribution shall be made to any **Member**.

On the liquidation or removal from the Register of Incorporated Societies of the **Society**, its surplus assets — after payment of all debts, costs and liabilities — shall be vested in

1. University of Canterbury MBA Programme.

However, in any resolution under this rule, the **Society** may approve a different distribution to a different not-for-profit entity from that specified above, so long as the **Society** complies with this **Constitution** and the **Act** in all other respects.

## Alterations to the constitution

### Amending this constitution

All amendments must be made in accordance with this **Constitution**. Any minor or technical amendments shall be notified to **Members** as required by section 31 of the **Act**.

The **Society** may amend or replace this **Constitution** at a **General Meeting** by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those **Members** present and voting.

That amendment may be approved by a resolution passed in lieu of a meeting but only if authorised by this **Constitution**.

Any proposed resolution to amend or replace this **Constitution** shall be signed by at least 5 per cent of eligible **Members** and given in writing to the **Committee** at least 28 **Days** before the **General Meeting** at which the resolution is to be considered and accompanied by a written explanation of the reasons for the proposal.

At least 14 **Days** before the **General Meeting** at which any amendment is to be considered the **Committee** shall give to all **Members** notice of the proposed resolution, the reasons for the proposal, and any recommendations the **Committee** has.

When an amendment is approved by a **General Meeting** it shall be notified to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies in the form and manner specified in the **Act** for registration, and shall take effect from the date of registration.

## Other

### Common seal

The **Society** will have a common seal that must be kept in the custody of—

1. an **Officer**

The common seal may be affixed to any document:

1. by resolution of the **Committee**, and must be countersigned by 2 **Officers** or
2. by such other means as the **Committee** may resolve from time to time.

### Bylaws

The **Committee** from time to time may make and amend bylaws, and policies for the conduct and control of **Society** activities and codes of conduct applicable to **Members**, but no such bylaws, policies or codes of conduct applicable to **Members** shall be inconsistent with this **Constitution**, the **Act**, regulations made under the **Act**, or any other legislation.