



GhSL
Għaqda Studenti tal-Liġi

Statute

As approved during the GhSL Annual General Meeting of the 22nd April, 2024.

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1. General Provisions

- 1.1. The articles of this Statute shall be read and construed in relation to the Laws of Malta and the by-laws of the University of Malta.
- 1.2. This Statute is the only Statute of GħSL and shall supersede all prior Statutes.
- 1.3. When inconsistencies in the interpretation of this Statute or when matters that are not regulated by this Statute occur, the Executive Board shall decide on the course of action that best satisfies the interests and values of GħSL.
- 1.4. All references in the masculine include also a reference in the feminine and vice-versa.

2. Identity

- 2.1. The name of the Organisation shall be 'Għaqda Studenti tal-Liġi', (hereinafter referred to as the 'Organisation').
- 2.2. The official English translation of the name shall be 'Malta Law Students' Society'.
- 2.3. The official abbreviation of the Organisation shall be 'GħSL'.
- 2.4. The official languages of GħSL are Maltese and English.
- 2.5. The seat of the organisation is 'Room 219, Faculty of Laws, University of Malta, Msida, MSD 2080, Malta', or as otherwise determined by the Executive Board.

3. Nature

- 3.1. GhSL is the faculty-based organisation at the University of Malta that represents all law students.
- 3.2. GhSL is autonomous and independent from all civil and religious bodies, political parties, commercial institutions, and any other organisation or association.
- 3.3. GhSL is a Maltese Voluntary Organisation in line with Cap. 492 of the Laws of Malta. Its Voluntary Organisation (VO) number is VO/1836.
- 3.4. GhSL is a non-profit organisation.
- 3.5. GhSL is a full member of the Malta University Students' Council (KSU).
- 3.6. GhSL is an associate member of the Maltese National Youth Council (KNŻ).

4. Aims and Purposes

4.1. The aims of this organisation are as follows:

- 4.1.1. To address the diverse needs and concerns of all law students, as well as act as a representative body of said law students.
- 4.1.2. To serve as a link between all law students, the Faculty of Laws, and other professional legal entities.
- 4.1.3. To facilitate, encourage and improve the education of law at the University of Malta, and education in general.
- 4.1.4. To inform and promote the wide range of career opportunities available to law students.
- 4.1.5. To provide a range of social activities for all law students.
- 4.1.6. To produce publications to assist in the promotion of these aims, and to provide material of general interest to law students.
- 4.1.7. To promote a commitment to social justice and a critical interest in law and the operation of law in society.
- 4.1.8. To encourage involvement of law students in active student life on campus.
- 4.1.9. To strengthen, expand and make the best use of its resources and facilities in the paramount interest of law students.
- 4.1.10. To foster humanitarian principles among law students and seek to nurture the development of responsible future legal professionals.
- 4.1.11. To establish good relations and organise activities with other organisations, especially student organisations, to achieve the above aims.
- 4.1.12. To formulate policy and provide services and activities, not limited to and not inconsistent with the above aims and purposes.
- 4.1.13. To advocate in favour of a more democratic state, one governed by the rule of law.

5. Members

5.1. The register of Full Members shall be that list of students, whether full-time or part-time, as held by the Faculty of Laws, subject to any suspensions or expulsion of Members from the Organisation or any other member falling within the provisions of Article 5.2;

Provided that reference to 'Members' in this Statute shall refer to Full Members.

5.2. The register of Associated Members shall include law students:

5.2.1. Who are studying law at the University of Malta on an exchange for not more than one year; or

5.2.2. Who are not yet registered with the Faculty of Laws but are applying to be so registered.

5.3. Every member shall have the right not to associate himself with GhSL. In such case, he may surrender his Membership by notifying the Secretary General in writing. On opting out of GhSL, the student will not be entitled to any benefits provided by the Organisation.

Provided that a Member of the Executive Board, Committee, Boards of Review or Electoral Commission shall cease to hold office if he surrenders his Membership.

5.4. All Members of the Organisation shall do their utmost to abide by this Statute.

6. Structure

6.1 The governing organs of GhSL are the following:

- a. Statute
- b. General Meeting
 - i. Annual General Meeting
 - ii. Extraordinary General Meeting
- c. Supervisory Board
 - i. Chairperson
 - ii. Disciplinary Board
 - iii. Board of Appeal
- d. Executive Board
- e. Committees

6.2 The governing organs are listed according to hierarchy.

7. General Meetings

7.1. General Provisions

- 7.1.1. The General Meeting is the highest decisive institution within the GhSL structure.
- 7.1.2. Notice of a General Meeting shall be given at least seven (7) days before the appointed date of the said meeting.
- 7.1.3. The notice of a General Meeting must include the following:
 - a. Time;
 - b. Date;
 - c. Place;
 - d. Agenda of the meeting.
- 7.1.4. The Full Members have the right to attend and vote at the General Meeting.
- 7.1.5. The Associated Members have the right to attend, but are not eligible to vote at the General Meeting.
- 7.1.6. The quorum of the General Meeting shall constitute in twenty-percent (20%) of all Members.

Provided that General Meetings may commence after the lapse of fifteen (15) minutes from the set time if a quorum is not reached.
- 7.1.7. A Chairperson shall preside over the General Meeting according to the dispositions of this Statute.
- 7.1.8. Decisions taken by the Chairperson are final provided that they are not opposed to by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Members present and voting.
- 7.1.9. If the Chairperson is not a member of GhSL, he shall only have a casting vote. If he is a member of GhSL, he shall also have an original vote in the General Meeting, together with his casting vote.
- 7.1.10. The Secretary of the General Meeting shall take minutes of the said meeting. The minutes shall include details regarding every motion, discussion and any vote taken in the meeting.
- 7.1.11. Motions in a General Meeting shall be carried by a simple majority of valid votes cast, unless otherwise provided.
- 7.1.12. Amendments to the proposed Agenda shall require the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the Members present and voting at the General Meeting.
- 7.1.13. In the General Meeting abstentions to a vote shall be counted for the intents and purposes of the minutes of the meeting but do not affect the result of the vote.

7.2. Amendments to the Statute

- 7.2.1. Amendments to the Statute shall only be made during a General Meeting, with the approval of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the Members present and voting at the meeting.

7.2.2. The above-mentioned amendments shall not be considered during the General Meeting unless they are presented to the Secretary General at least two (2) days before the said General Meeting.

Provided that such motions do not constitute a counter-amendment to the amendments proposed. It is at the discretion of the Chairperson of the General Meeting to determine what constitutes a counter-amendment.

7.2.3. All motions or proposed amendments to the Statute must be signed by two (2) Members, a proponent and a second.

7.2.4. The approved amendments shall come into force with immediate effect.

7.2.5. Whenever this Statute is amended as contemplated in the preceding articles, it must be recorded by the words "As amended on" followed by the date of the General Meeting on the second page of this Statute, in a chronological manner.

7.3. Annual General Meeting

7.3.1. The Executive Board shall in each academic year convene an Annual General Meeting.

7.3.2. The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time and place as the Executive Board shall establish during the second academic semester, provided that it shall not be convened later than the end of April.

Provided further that the election of the Executive Board shall also be held by the end of April or at a later time that shall be determined in the Annual General Meeting.

7.3.3. The Agenda of the Annual General Meeting shall include:

- a. Appointment of Chairperson and Secretary;
- b. Approval of Agenda;
- c. Reading and approval of the minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting;
- d. Reading and approval of the Annual Report of the Executive Board of the preceding year;
- e. Reading and approval of the Financial Report of the Executive Board of the preceding year;
- f. Appointment of the Disciplinary Board;
- g. Appointment of the Board of Appeal;
- h. Discussion and voting on motions presented and/or amendments to the Statute;
- i. Appointment of the Electoral Commission;
- j. Announce a time period for the nominations of the incoming Executive Board.
- k. Establishing an election date for the incoming Executive Board.

7.3.4. The following business shall be conducted at, or in connection with, each Annual General Meeting:

- a. Reports that shall be presented by all Executive Members in a form and manner established by the Executive Board.
- b. Amendments to the Organisation's current Statute, if any.
- c. Other motions presented may be discussed and voted upon only if notice was given before the meeting as provided by this Statute.

Provided that any counter motions may be moved during the Annual General Meeting.

- d. The Secretary of the Annual General Meeting is required to submit all Annual General Meeting documents immediately upon election of the new Secretary General.

7.3.5. The Annual General Meeting shall be specified as such in the notice convening it, in accordance with the articles under 'General Provisions'.

7.3.6. Honorary Presidents of GhSL shall be nominated and approved in the Annual General Meeting.

7.4. Extraordinary General Meeting

7.4.1. All General Meetings other than Annual General Meetings shall be called Extraordinary General Meetings.

7.4.2. Extraordinary General Meetings may be called by the Executive Board or upon a request in writing by not less than ten percent (10%) of all Members.

7.4.3. The Agenda of the Extraordinary General Meeting shall include (a), (b), (c) and (h) of the Agenda of the Annual General Meeting.

8. Executive Board

8.1. General Provisions

8.1.1. The affairs of the Organisation shall be managed by the Executive Board, comprised of all elected Executive Members, in accordance with the terms of this Statute and the decisions of the Annual General Meeting and/or Extraordinary General Meeting.

8.1.2. The Executive Board shall be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Organisation, and shall direct its policies in accordance with this Statute.

8.1.3. The Members of the Executive Board are:

- a. President
- b. Vice-President
- c. Secretary General
- d. Financial Officer
- e. Public Relations Officer
- f. Academic Officer
- g. International Officer
- h. Policy Officer
- i. Publications Officer
- j. Leisure Officer
- k. Marketing Officer
- l. Resources Officer
- m. Legal Aid Officer
- n. Moot Court Officer
- o. Student Support Officer

8.2. Administration

8.2.1. The persons contesting for the position of:

- a. President
- b. Vice-President
- c. Secretary General
- d. Financial Officer
- e. Public Relations Officer

must satisfy the following criteria:

- a. Must have been a Member of the Executive Board for not less than one term;
- b. Must have never been found by the Boards of Review to have:
 - i. Breached provisions of this Statute; and/or

- ii. Behaved in a manner detrimental to the Organisation.

Provided that if there is more than one person contesting for the above-mentioned positions, there shall be an election between the nominated persons according to the provisions of this Statute;

Provided further that the persons who satisfy the above requirements shall hand in their nomination during the Annual General Meeting. If, during the Annual General Meeting no valid nomination is presented, the Electoral Commission is obliged to accept nominations from Members interested in the respective position and who do not satisfy the criteria mentioned above.

8.2.2. The Administration's roles and responsibilities shall be determined by the President and shall include, inter alia, sponsorships, organisational strategy and oversight of the Executive Board.

8.2.3. The Administration, together with the Policy Officer, shall be responsible for all KPE Meetings.

Provided that the President may appoint another Board member to attend.

8.2.4. The President may choose to appoint, at his discretion, not more than two (2) other Members of the Executive Board to the Administration.

8.2.5. The Administration must convene a meeting at least once a month.

8.2.6. The Legal Representation of the Organisation shall be vested in the President and any one of the Members of the Administration.

Provided the President may authorise another Board member to sign in his stead should he be unavailable.

8.2.7. The Judicial Representation of the Organisation shall be vested in the President and the Vice-President.

8.2.8. The Members of the Administration are ex officio Members of every Committee of the Organisation.

8.3. Procedure

8.3.1. In the first Executive Board meeting, the Administration shall present Standing Orders for the approval of the Board. The Board may by a motion supported by a majority of the Board Members, choose to amend the Standing Orders at any time. These Standing Orders shall outline the ordinary procedure to be used throughout the term.

Provided that where the Standing Orders are in violation of the Statute, the Statute shall prevail.

Provided further that the Executive Board may, by a majority, choose to temporarily depart from the rules within the Standing Orders, if the need so arises.

8.3.2. At the beginning of its term, the Executive Board shall prepare a Work Plan and a Financial Plan for the upcoming year.

8.3.3. Decisions of the Executive Board shall be taken by a simple majority, unless otherwise provided.

- 8.3.4. Meetings of the Executive Board must be held no less than once a month.
- 8.3.5. The President shall have an original vote together with a casting vote in the decisions of the Executive Board.
- 8.3.6. A notice regarding an Executive Board meeting shall be sent at least forty-eight (48) hours before the proposed meeting. Urgent and extraordinary meetings, according to circumstances, require a notice of at least five (5) hours before the meeting.
- 8.3.7. Six (6) Members of the Executive Board are required to constitute a quorum for a Board meeting.

Provided that an Executive Board meeting may commence after the lapse of fifteen (15) minutes from the set time if a quorum is not reached.

- 8.3.8. If an Executive member breaches a decision for which at least nine (9) Members of the Executive had voted in favour during an Executive Board meeting, where the said member was present, a vote of confidence shall be taken.

Provided that the said member shall be allowed five minutes to defend and present his arguments, following which a vote shall be taken. The vote shall be confirmed by two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the Executive Members present and voting.

- 8.3.9. Minutes of every meeting of the Executive Board shall be taken and approved at the following meeting by the Board.

- 8.3.10. When a Member of the Executive Board is absent, without justification, for three (3) consecutive meetings or a total of five (5) meetings during a term, the Secretary General shall refer the Board Member to the Disciplinary Board.

Provided that if the Secretary General is absent for the above mentioned number of meetings, the President shall refer him to the Board.

- 8.3.11. The Executive Board may establish Committees which coordinate specific spheres of GhSL's competence according to the terms and conditions established by the Board, provided they are not in conflict with the Committees established by this Statute.

- 8.3.12. Members of the Executive Board shall not form part of the Executive of any political and/or University organisation.

Provided that no Member of the Executive Board shall attend partisan political events, unless authorised to do so by the Board.

- 8.3.13. Members of the Executive Board shall not go on the Erasmus+ programme or any international exchanges.

- 8.3.14. Board Members shall declare any possible conflict of interest or bias, and may be requested by the Board to exit the meeting during the discussion and decision of any such matter.

The Board, excluding the person declaring such conflict, may decide that the discussion of such a matter not be minuted.

Provided that the decision on any such matter shall nonetheless be recorded in the minutes.

Provided further that the decision not to minute the discussion shall be recorded in the minutes.

8.3.15. Any failure to declare any conflict shall be referred by the President to the Board of Discipline.

Provided that the Board of Discipline shall take into account any bona fide mistake of the Board Member in question.

8.4. Financial Administration

8.4.1. The financial year shall begin on 1st March and end on 28th February or 29th February, as the case may be.

8.4.2. The Executive Board shall not enter into any debts or loans it cannot meet out of its ordinary revenue, unless such debt or loan is authorised in a General Meeting.

8.4.3. The funds of the Organisation shall be deposited in the bank account and used only in connection with the running of the organisation.

8.4.4. Monies so deposited may only be withdrawn over the signature and/or authorisation of any two Members of the Administration after informing the Financial Officer of such withdrawal.

8.4.5. A small amount of funds may be held as 'petty cash' under the control of the Financial Officer.

8.4.6. Expenses of over a hundred Euro (€100) must be approved by the Executive Board.

8.4.7. All expenses, together with their respective invoices/receipts, shall be notified and handed to the Financial Officer immediately.

8.4.8. A receipt shall be issued for all monies received by the Organisation.

8.4.9. In order to further facilitate better the financial administration, accounting software must be utilised by the Financial Officer in the exercise of his duties and is to be maintained throughout the financial year. Any relevant expenses are to be borne by the Organisation.

8.4.10. An accountant or accounting assistant is to be chosen by the incoming executive during the first executive meeting and who shall assist the Financial Officer in the exercise of his financial duties and with any financial reporting. Any relevant expenses for the exercise of the accountant or accounting assistant's duties are to be fulfilled by the Organisation.

8.5. Duties and Competences of the Members of the Executive Board

8.5.1. The President:

- a. Shall constitute the official representative and spokesperson of GhSL. When the President speaks on behalf of GhSL he shall reflect the official position of the organisation.
- b. Shall ensure the observance of this Statute and the collective discipline of the Executive Board.

- c. Shall ensure regular contact with the Faculty of Laws.
- d. Shall preside over the Executive Board Meetings.
- e. Shall ensure good relations and collaborate with entities outside the Organisation.
- f. Shall promote the ideals and policies of GhSL, according to the Executive Board's discretion, in light of the dispositions of this Statute.

8.5.2. The Vice-President:

- a. Shall be responsible to assist the President and Secretary General in the work of the Executive Board.
- b. Shall serve as Acting-President in the absence of the President and shall be assisted by the Secretary General in this responsibility.
- c. Shall be responsible for team building exercises and to provide consultation when needed.
- d. Review all proposed social activities, along with budgetary information, together with the Financial Officer.
- e. Adopt an Alumni Network whereby a link is created between alumni graduate students, present law students and future law students.
- f. Shall build relations with other student and/or youth organisations and NGOs, ensuring an articulated image for the Organisation.
- g. Shall help create a stronger relationship with the student body in general.
- h. Shall be responsible for the internal communication of the organisation between Executive Board members and committees and shall be assisted by the Secretary General in this responsibility.
- i. Shall be responsible to improve the working relationship of all Executive Board members.
- j. Shall be responsible for the 'Student Representatives Committee' in conjunction with the Student Support Officer.

8.5.3. The Secretary General:

- a. Shall be responsible to assist the President in the coordination of the work of the entire Executive.
- b. Shall assist the Vice-President in the internal communication between Executive Board members.
- c. Shall be responsible for the taking of minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board.
- d. Shall, together with the President, Vice-President and Student Support Officer, be responsible for the 'Student Representatives Committee', and shall oversee the workings of said Committee.
- e. Shall be responsible for General Meeting logistics.

- f. Shall be responsible to set goals and pre-empt the Executive to keep to the calendar of events.
- g. Shall be responsible for filing any documentation of the organisation with any competent authority.

8.5.4. The Financial Officer:

- a. Shall be responsible for the organisation's sponsorship packages in the following manner:
 - i. Approving the sponsorship packages for the funding of GhSL drafted by the Marketing Officer.
 - ii. Together with the Marketing Officer, establishing new and maintaining existing relations and collaboration with commercial and/or other entities which can help GhSL financially.
 - iii. Serve as co-signatory, together with the President every contractual relationship.
 - iv. Shall assist the Marketing Officer in drafting a sponsorship report, which shall be annexed to the Financial Report. The Sponsorship Report shall include all activities carried out throughout the Term of Office and a copy may be given to the entities sponsoring the Organisation.
- b. Shall be responsible for the Financial Administration of the Organisation;
- c. Shall ensure that every commitment and activity of GhSL shall not be an extra financial burden on the Organisation, and that there is appropriate distribution of finances for each activity;
- d. Shall seek to promote profit-making activities amongst the Executive Board and/or seek to lessen any losses generated from the events organised by GhSL;
- e. Shall help every Office, Committee or Sub-Committee with the preparation of the necessary budgets for the approval of the Executive Board before every event organised by GhSL;
- f. Shall keep correct accounts and books showing the financial affairs of the Organisation, including but not limited to a Cash Book, an Income and Expenditure Account, a Balance Sheet and the necessary statements, with full details of all invoices, receipts and expenses connected with the financial activity of the Organisation.
- g. Shall keep the Executive Board informed about developments made in achieving the goals set forth in the Financial Plan and shall do so by presenting a detailed report to the Executive Board:
 - i. Every three (3) months or every financial quarter;
 - ii. When the Executive Board so decides;

- h. Shall prepare the Financial Report together with a set of Financial Statements at the end of the Financial Period which will be presented at the Annual General Meeting;
- i. Shall make all the Financial Statements available for inspection by all Members of GhSL;
- j. Shall coordinate the collection and payments of all monies due as authorised by the Organisation;
- k. Shall be responsible for dealing with any financial statutory obligations which burden GhSL in an efficient manner;
- l. Shall maintain a detailed inventory of the fixed assets of the Organisation.

8.5.5. The Public Relations Officer (PRO):

- a. Shall be responsible for the image of GhSL.
- b. Shall promote charitable events and other events to enhance the image of GhSL.
- c. Shall be responsible for coordination with the media.
- d. Shall organise and coordinate the GhSL stand at Freshers' Week.
- e. Shall be responsible for maintaining the Organisation's online platform, including the website and social media, such as, 'Instagram', 'Facebook', and 'LinkedIn'.
- f. Shall be responsible for maintaining and authorising the use of the GhSL Logo and intellectual property by the rest of the Executive Board as well as other entities.
- g. Shall formulate GhSL's Branding Guidelines to be used by the Organisation.
- h. Shall keep a list of contacts of GhSL Members and other entities to help in his duties.
- i. Shall be responsible for approving all the fliers, posters, sound and/or visual clips issued on behalf of GhSL.
- j. Shall be responsible of the maintenance of GhSL's website.

8.5.6. The Academic Officer:

- a. Shall be responsible for events of an academic nature in light of the aims of the Organisation.
- b. Shall be responsible for the organisation of seminars, debates and informative talks.

8.5.7. The Publications Officer:

- a. Shall be responsible for the 'Id-Dritt Publications Committee' and shall:
 - i. appoint an Editor-in-Chief of Id-Dritt; and
 - ii. oversee the work of Board as specified in Schedule A.

- b. Shall be responsible for the 'GħSL Online Law Journal Board' and shall: appoint an Editor-in-Chief for the Online Law Journal; and oversee the work of said Board as specified in Schedule B.
- c. Shall be responsible for all publications on behalf of GħSL.
- d. Shall be responsible of the stock-taking of the books published by GħSL, together with the Resources Officer.

8.5.8. The Leisure Officer:

- a. Shall organise non-academic events that serve to enhance the link between law students and Members of GħSL.
- b. Shall be responsible for organising charitable events together with the Legal Aid Office.
- c. May appoint a 'Leisure Committee'.
- d. Shall be responsible for organising fundraising activities for the Organisation.

8.5.9. The International Officer:

- a. Shall seek to communicate with international organisations and local organisations with international relations, particularly student-based organisations, for the benefit of GħSL and its Members;
- b. Shall build a relationship with the Department of International Law within the Faculty of Laws to facilitate teaching opportunities within Malta and abroad;
- c. Shall take every initiative to organise international competitions and exchange opportunities for the benefit of Members of the Organisation.
- d. Shall propose means and initiatives for GħSL to help foreign students that are studying within the Faculty of Laws on a temporary basis or for the length of the course to help them to adjust to the course.
- e. Shall help the Publications Officer in promoting the "GħSL Malta Online Law Journal" website with international entities, specifically with foreign law student organisations.
- f. Shall attend meetings of the Erasmus Board at the Faculty of Laws.

8.5.10. The Policy Officer:

- a. Shall follow current events and inform the Executive Board on those issues that concern law students.
- b. Shall draw up documents and proposals on behalf of GħSL with regard to policies related to legal issues.
- c. Shall be responsible for the publishing and collection of external reports and activity reports.
- d. Shall, together with the Administration, be responsible for KPE Meetings.

8.5.11. The Marketing Officer:

- a. Shall maintain a direct relationship with and work closely with the Financial Officer in drawing sponsorship packages.
- b. Shall set up and maintain a contacts database containing all details of suppliers and sponsors; past, present and potential;
- c. Shall promote the Sponsorship Packages, as laid down by the Financial Officer and approved by the Executive Board, with any potential sponsors;
- d. Shall seek both short and long term financial assistance for the funding of GhSL, by way of sponsorships. This shall take place in consultation with the Financial Officer;
- e. Shall coordinate with the Financial Officer to set up meetings concerning sponsorships for the Organisation, and shall also assist the Financial Officer during such meetings;
- f. Shall communicate and cooperate with the Financial Officer in the negotiation and delivery of sponsorship obligations;
- g. Shall maintain regular contact with GhSL's existing sponsors;
- h. Shall take all necessary steps in the promotion and selling of GhSL's vendible materials;
- i. Shall ensure that material issued in the name of GhSL shall comply with any obligations imposed by sponsorship agreements.
- j. Shall actively work with and under the control of the Public Relations Officer, both prior to and during major events, including but not limited to Freshers' Week, by promoting, maintaining and selling in accordance with the brand image of GhSL.
- k. Shall lead all meetings concerning sponsorships for the Organisation and shall assist the Vice-President in maintaining good relations, while updating and retaining contact with all GhSL sponsors.
- l. Shall be responsible for the Organisation's Newsletter.

8.5.12. The Resources Officer:

- a. Shall be responsible for all notes and past papers published and held by the Organisation in light of the needs of its Members.
- b. Shall also compile and publish, electronically or printed as deemed fit, any symposium booklets which are created in order to assist law students.
- c. Shall also be responsible for any informative or academic publications for students which do not fall under the responsibility of the Publications Officer.
- d. Shall be responsible of the stock-taking of the books published by GhSL, together with the Publications Officer.

8.5.13. The Legal Aid Officer:

- a. Shall build relations with other student and/or youth organisations and NGOs ensuring an articulated image for the Organisation.
- b. Shall focus on charitable events and giving back to the community.

8.5.14. The Moot Court Officer:

- a. Shall be responsible for organising and planning all moot court competitions, as well as liaising with international organisations for such moot court events.

8.5.15. The Student Support Officer:

- a. Shall listen to students and advocate on their behalf.
- b. Shall engage with the relevant members of University and Faculty staff.
- c. Shall be responsible for networking events for students.
- d. Shall be responsible for gathering internship opportunities for students and disseminating such information.

8.6. Elections of the Executive Board

8.6.1. Elections for GhSL's Executive Board shall be led by the Electoral Commission, which shall be composed of the Electoral Commissioner and two (2) other assistants appointed at the Annual General Meeting. The appointees shall be law students and shall not contest in the GhSL elections, nor shall they be current Executive Board Members.

8.6.2. Elections shall be held not less than seven (7) days and not more than fourteen (14) days after the Annual General Meeting, on a date set at the same meeting. An election notice including the list of candidates should be sent five (5) days before the election date.

8.6.3. Elections shall be held between 9am and 6pm at the Faculty of Laws, or any other suitable place at the University of Malta.

Provided that the Electoral Commission may decide to have an online vote, which must be communicated in the abovementioned notice.

8.6.4. Without prejudice to the provisions dealing with the Executive Board, Full Members of GhSL can contest and vote in the election for the Executive Board. These rights cannot be challenged by any organ of GhSL saving the Disciplinary Board or the Board of Appeal.

8.6.5. Candidates for the election of the Executive Board shall be nominated by a Full Member and seconded by another member of GhSL. Nominations shall be accepted as soon as the election date is set during the Annual General Meeting and shall continue to be received by the Electoral Commission up to forty-eight (48) hours after the Annual General Meeting. Nominations cannot be made on the basis of lists of candidates or on behalf of an organisation or group.

8.6.6. Should two or more persons contest for the same role, they shall be required to present a plan of action to the Electoral Commission, including their ideas and plans should they be elected. The plan of action shall be received by the

Electoral Commission in time for the notice of election as provided for in Article 8.6.2, and the plan of action shall be included in the same notice and published.

- 8.6.7. The elections shall be held in a 'First Past the Post' system, and shall pertain solely to the Executive posts contemplated under the General Provisions of the Executive Board.
- 8.6.8. No member may contest for more than one (1) Executive role in the same election and may not hold more than one (1) Executive role at the same time.
- 8.6.9. No member may contest for an Executive role if the Electoral Commission determines that they are affiliated with partisan politics. Such a decision may only be taken after having the right to present his case before the Electoral Commission. This decision may be challenged before the Board of Appeal.
- 8.6.10. Full Members shall vote with a cross (x) symbol or any other symbol accepted by the Electoral Commission, next to one (1) name only per Executive role.
- 8.6.11. Voting shall take place by secret ballot.
- 8.6.12. Should any two (2) candidates acquire an equal number of votes, another election between the candidates for that role shall be held. This election shall be called by the Electoral Commission immediately after the counting of the votes and shall not be less than twenty-four (24) hours and not more than three (3) weekdays after the original counting of votes. If, again, the candidates receive an equal number of votes in the subsequent election, the newly elected Executive Board shall elect one (1) of the candidates.
- 8.6.13. Should an Executive Role become vacant during the term, the Electoral Commission shall be informed within three days from the notice of resignation, and shall issue a call for applications for the role which has been vacated. This call for applications shall be issued within two days from the above notice.

Provided that should no nomination be received for any particular role as provided for in Article 8.6.5, the Electoral Commission shall, within seven days from the election date as established during the Annual General Meeting as provided for in Article 8.6.2, issue a call for applications under this article.

The call for applications shall remain open for seven days, and together with the application, the candidates shall be required to submit a plan of action for the vacated role.

The Electoral Commission shall communicate the applications together with their plans of action to the Executive Board, who shall organise interviews with the candidates, and co-opt one of the candidates to fill the role. This process must be completed within fourteen days.

- 8.6.14. If an Executive post is vacated during the handover period, it shall be occupied by the newly elected member of the respective post.
- 8.6.15. It shall be possible for Executive Board members to change role during the term subject to the following procedure. A majority of the Executive Board

must agree to the change, and the Board Members concerned shall be able to veto such a change. This change must be communicated to the Electoral Commission by the Secretary General within two days from the change.

Provided that the change shall be publicly notified to the members.

8.7. Term of Office and Handover

- 8.7.1. The commencement of the incoming Executive Board shall also mean the end of the outgoing Executive Board.
- 8.7.2. The new term of the incoming Executive Board shall begin on the 1st of July following the Election of the incoming Board earlier in the year.
- 8.7.3. The time in between the election and the commencement of the term of the incoming Executive Board shall be used in order to guide the incoming members, and answer any queries they may have.
- 8.7.4. It is the responsibility of the outgoing Executive Board to plan and organise sessions with the incoming Executive Board, either on a one-on-one basis or as a group, in order to streamline the process.
- 8.7.5. The outgoing Executive Board shall ensure that the incoming Board is fully aware of the proceedings of the Organisation. This shall include the right of the incoming Board to attend, but not vote, in any proceedings of the outgoing Board.

8.8. Resignation of Members of the Executive Board

- 8.8.1. Notice of resignation of a Member of the Executive Board from his office shall be given both to the President and the Secretary General, in writing. Such resignation shall include an explanation of the reasons which led to such surrender of office. The resigning member may give a notice period until the resignation becomes effective, during which time, they are still responsible for their office.
- 8.8.2. After receiving the resignation notice from a Board Member, the President shall call for an Executive Board meeting which shall take place within three (3) days. During this meeting, the Executive Board shall discuss the reasons put forward by the person so resigning. The resigning member shall be explicitly invited to this meeting, in order to give their reasons. Their non-attendance shall not prejudice the validity of the proceedings.

9. Committees

9.1. Introductory Provisions

- 9.1.1. The Executive Board shall establish standing Committees according to the provisions of the Statute.
- 9.1.2. The aim of each Committee shall be to improve the outreach of the Organisation and to involve more law students in the Organisation.
- 9.1.3. Each Committee shall follow the general direction and workings of the Organisation and abide by the provisions of this Statute.
- 9.1.4. The General Provisions shall apply where the provisions on Committees are silent.

9.2. General Provisions

- 9.2.1. The commencement of the incoming Committee shall also mean the end of the outgoing Committee.
- 9.2.2. The duties of the Committee shall be at the discretion of the appointing Executive Member, who shall be responsible to the Executive Board for the work of the said Committee.
- 9.2.3. The appointing Member of the Executive Board shall serve as an ex officio member of the Committee for as long as said member is a Member of the Executive Board.
- 9.2.4. The Committee shall hold meetings on a monthly basis.
- 9.2.5. The Executive Board may remove any member of the Committee by simple majority.
- 9.2.6. All decisions taken in the name of GhSL shall be taken following consultation with the Executive Board.
- 9.2.7. With the permission of the Executive Board, committee members may be present in any Board Meeting discussing any matter related to their committee.

Provided that they shall not have a right to vote.

9.3. Student Representatives Committee

- 9.3.1. The Student Representatives Committee shall be composed of the following:
 - a. President, Secretary General, Vice-President, and the Student Support Officer;
 - b. The Class Representatives;
 - c. The Student Representatives of the Faculty of Laws *ex officio*.
- 9.3.2. The role of the Class Representative shall be to coordinate with the Faculty of Laws and the Organisation with regard to day-to-day student issues that arise and serve as the point of contact for Members of his/her respective year.

9.3.3. Class Representatives shall be elected at the beginning of the first semester of each academic year, from each year of the following courses:

- a. LL.B. (Hons) course;
- b. M. Not. St.;
- c. M. Adv.;
- d. H. Dip. L.P.

9.3.4. The procedure of elections of the class representatives will be administered by the three law student organisations at the University of Malta jointly.

9.3.5. Should no applications be received by the deadline stipulated by the three law student organisations, the organisations shall have the right to appoint a Member of that year as class representative.

9.4. Publications Committee

9.4.1. The Publications Officer, after consultation with the Executive Board, must appoint the Editor-in-Chief and the Publications Committee of Id-Dritt every year from among law students.

Provided that when the Publications Officer appoints the vice-editors, he/she must take into consideration the opinion of the Editor-in-Chief.

Provided further that when the Board takes more than a year to complete its work, a new Board shall be appointed at that moment when the work of that Board is completed.

9.4.2. The Publications Officer, after consultation with the Executive Board, must also appoint the Editor-in-Chief and the Publications Committee of the Online Law Journal. The provisions of Article 9.4.1 equally apply to this Article.

9.4.3. The Publications Office must issue a call for applications via the GhSL website, through e-mails sent to students and through any other means which may be considered appropriate.

9.4.4. Without prejudice to Article 9.4.1, if, according to the reasoned opinion of the Financial Officer, the finances of GhSL do not allow for publication, the Financial Officer must write a special report in which he lists the reasons for which the publication cannot take place and the Executive Board shall then take a decision on the delay of the publication. This can only be done when liquid funds are below eight thousand Euro (€8,000). Due to the importance of the journal, the Publications Officer will have the opportunity to give the reasons as to why the publication should take place anyway.

9.4.5. The Publications Committee shall remain in existence until it completes the work it has been assigned. Should the Board come to finalise its work and publicise an edition of Id-Dritt, the Executive Board may appoint a new board which shall commence work on the next edition of the journal.

9.4.6. The Publications Committee shall have independence from the Executive Board to the extent that the latter cannot interfere in the Editorial Schemes of the publication.

9.4.7. The Publications Committee shall ensure that all articles published in *Id-Dritt* are peer-reviewed by professionals in the respective field.

10. Supervisory Board

10.1. Definitions

10.1.1. The Supervisory Board shall consist of three separate entities which are established to ensure the smooth running of the organisation, to advise the Executive as it deems fit, and to serve as a link between the Executive and the rest of the bodies forming part of GhSL.

10.1.2. The Supervisory Board is to advise the Executive on any proceedings should the need arise, without compromising their independent functions.

10.1.3. The three separate entities of the Supervisory Board are the following:

- a. The Chairperson
- b. The Disciplinary Board
- c. The Board of Appeal

10.2. The Chairperson

10.2.1. The Chairperson shall consist of one (1) member appointed by the General Meeting, after having been nominated by a member of the Executive.

10.2.2. The Chairperson shall act as the chief advisor of the present Executive, and to ensure that both the Disciplinary Board and the Board of Appeal remain independent and impartial in their functions, and to advise the Executive in any disciplinary matters, both before and during such proceedings, on the Chairperson's own volition and/or upon request by the Executive. The Chairperson shall chair all meetings of both Disciplinary and the Board of Appeal.

10.2.3. In case of any possible conflict of interest on the Chairperson's behalf, or if the Chairperson himself is the subject of any proceedings, the Chairperson shall recuse himself and appoint an interim Chairperson.

10.2.4. If the Chairperson recognises any breaches of the Statute by either the Disciplinary Board or the Board of Appeal in their proceedings, he shall bring such matters to the notice of the Executive Board and the members of the organisation, and shall advise on the best course of action on a case by case basis.

10.3. The Disciplinary Board

10.3.1. The Disciplinary Board shall consist of one (1) member appointed by the General Meeting.

10.3.2. The Disciplinary Board shall adjudicate cases:

- a. Breaches of Statutory regulations and practices or procedures; and
- b. Where a member is accused of behaviour detrimental to the Organisation, in light of the powers conferred on the Board by the Statute.

10.3.3. Cases may be brought before the Disciplinary Board by any Member of the Organisation.

10.3.4. An action may not be brought before the said Board after the lapse of six (6) months from when the complainant knew, or should have known of the incident.

10.4. Board of Appeal

10.4.1. The Board of Appeal shall consist of three (3) Members appointed by the General Meeting. Of these three members, the Chairperson as established in Article 10.2 shall be an *ex officio* member and shall chair all proceedings of the said Board.

10.4.2. Decisions of the Disciplinary Board are subject to appeal before the Board of Appeal.

10.4.3. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final.

10.5. General Provisions

10.5.1. A person may only be a member of a Supervisory Board if he has been a law student for a period of not less than two (2) years. Provided that Members of the Executive Board, and candidates for the elections of the Executive Board may not be Members of the Supervisory Board.

10.5.2. The Boards may take remedial measures proportionate to the seriousness of the Case:

- a. If an Executive Board member, such member is removed from the office that he occupies.
- b. The Board may withhold the right of the member to contest elections for any organ within GhSL and to contest the elections on behalf of GhSL.
- c. The Board may suspend the Membership of the member within GhSL for a fixed or indefinite period of time.
- d. The Board may publicly declare the termination of any relationship between GhSL and the member concerned.

10.5.3. In taking disciplinary decisions on any member, such member shall always have the right to be heard by impartial persons for the case concerned. The individual shall be granted every right to present his position and shall have the right to be heard.

10.5.4. Where the act of the member has breached the Statute, acts shall be taken, as far as practicable, to declare the member's acts as invalid, and all necessary steps shall be taken to limit the effects of his acts or, where case may be, to remove such effects.

11. Dissolution

- 11.1. The Organisation may be dissolved if ninety percent (90%) of the Members present at the General Meeting vote for such a motion.
- 11.2. In the case of dissolution, for whichever reason it may be, GhSL's assets will go to an organisation which holds the same aims chosen by the executive at that given time. The organisation must be registered as a VO as per the commission for VOs.

Schedule A

1. The title of this schedule is “Guidelines for the drawing up and publication of the Id-Dritt Law Journal”.
2. Without prejudice to Article 9.4 of this Statute, regulations under this schedule shall not be regarded as optional or give rise to punitive measures in the absence of total or part thereof, but shall be considered as guidelines and general measures for the design and publication of “Id-Dritt Law Journal”.
3. The general functions of the Editorial Board in the design of the journal consist of the following:
 - a. To establish the Editorial Scheme;
 - b. To formulate the general format and guidelines for editing the journal, including the number of articles, maximum and/ or minimum number of words for each article, and the internal and external design thereof;
 - c. To formulate the content on the journal, including what themes, topics or articles should, for their importance, receive priority at the current time of publication;
 - d. To publish a call, in cooperation with the Executive Board, for the contributions of articles by legal experts and, if appropriate, by law students in accordance with the calibre and competence established;
 - e. To, upon the advice of the Publications Officer, refuse the publication of an article:
 - i. If not in accordance with the appropriate standards required of a publication of this kind;
 - ii. If the article is not a topic or theme relevant to a journal of this kind;
or
 - iii. If the contributor capriciously or negligently does not comply with the format and guidelines provided to it by the Publications Committee.
 - f. To communicate with contributors and maintain a level of regular communication with them;
 - g. To clarify any questions or doubts a contributor may raise from time to time;
 - h. To appoint, upon advice given by the Publications Officer, renowned persons in the legal profession to write a journal entry;
 - i. To establish and enforce deadlines for the contribution of the articles, which period shall not extend beyond twelve (12) months from the date of the call for contributions;
 - j. To carry out and implement the necessary corrections of editorial articles under the scheme, format and guidelines to be established;
 - k. To contact and negotiate, with the consent and under the supervision of the Publications Officer, with third parties for the design and aesthetics of the journal;
 - l. To contact and negotiate, with the consent and under the supervision of the Publications Officer, with third parties for newspaper printing;
 - m. To cooperate with the Publications Officer for the design and publication of the journal; and
 - n. To carry out any other function the Publications Officer may from time to time delegate to the Publications Committee.

4. The general functions of the Publications Officer in the design of the journal consist of the following:
- a. To attend meetings of the Publications Committee and assist in its general functions.
 - b. To communicate to the Executive Board the work of the Publications Committee and its decisions, from time to time.
 - c. To communicate to the Publications Committee any question or clarification of the Executive Board on the work the Publications Committee has committed, or any decision taken.
 - d. To enforce the budget that the Financial Officer, together with the Executive Board, has adopted for the design and publication of the journal.
 - e. To give his opinion about the Editorial Scheme, the general format and guidelines for editing the journal, including the number of articles, maximum/minimum number of words for each article and the internal and external design, and to assist the Publications Committee in this area;
 - f. To advise and make suggestions to his Publications Committee on the content of the journal, including what themes, topics or articles should, for their importance, receive priority at the time of publication.
 - g. To suggest and decide, together with Publications Committee, on the time or final period for the contribution of articles.
 - h. To help and assist the Publications Committee with any problem or doubt that may arise in the period of corrections.
 - i. To suggest, communicate and hold meetings with renowned persons in the legal profession to write a journal entry.
 - j. To help and assist the Publications Committee with the design of the journal, including business with third parties who may be appointed for this purpose.
 - k. To contact and negotiate, together with the Editor-in-Chief of the journal, with third parties for newspaper printing.
 - l. That decides, with the approval of the Executive Board, which people should receive a complimentary copy of the journal.
 - m. To contact people regarding the ISBN or ISSN number of the journal.
 - n. To, where appropriate and provided the finances of GhSL permit, and in cooperation with the Executive Board and the Publications Committee, organise the ceremony of the official publication of the journal.
 - o. Generally help and assist the Publications Committee with any question or clarification that they may have.
 - p. To publish a detailed report on his work and the work of the Editorial Board in the design and publication of the journal within a period of not less than two (2) months from the date of its official publication.
 - q. Any other function that the Executive Board may from time to time delegate to him.

Schedule B

1. The short title for this schedule is “Guidelines with regard to the running of the GhSL Online Law Journal”.
2. Without prejudice to Article 9.4 of this Statute, the regulations under this schedule are not to be considered binding or as giving rise to punitive measures in the case of non-compliance whether total or partial. These regulations are to have the force of guidelines and general measures with regard to the running of the ‘GhSL Online Law Journal.’
3. The general functions of the Publications Committee are the following:
 - a. To decide and establish the Editorial Scheme.
 - b. To establish the general format and the guidelines for the editing of the Journal, including the number of articles, and the minimum and/or maximum number of words per article.
 - c. To decide on the content of the journal, the themes, and which articles should at that point in time receive more prominence.
 - d. To make a public call for contributions in the form of articles from legal experts and possibly also students capable of writing valid articles.
 - e. To decide together with the Publications Officer to refuse to publish an article:
 - i. If it is not written in line with the standards set out.
 - ii. If the article is of no relevance to the journal.
 - iii. If a contributor negligently or capriciously does not abide by the format provided by the Publications Committee.
 - f. To communicate with the contributors and maintain regular contact with such contributors.
 - g. To clarify any questions or queries which may be put forward by contributors.
 - h. To carry out and implement any amendments and corrections to the articles according to the editorial format and the guidelines which would have been established.
 - i. To carry out a check through the Plagiarism Detection System before publishing an article.
 - j. To co-operate fully with the Publications Officer during the whole period of tenure.
 - k. Any other function which may be handed to it by the publications officer.
4. The General function of the Publications Officer in running the Online Law Journal:
 - a. To attend all Publications Committee meetings and assist the Board in its general functions.
 - b. To inform the Executive Board on the workings of the Publications Committee and any important decisions taken.
 - c. To clarify with the Board any question which may have been put forward by the Committee and any decision which may have been taken.
 - d. To enforce the budget determined by the Financial Officer for the expenses of the journal.
 - e. To provide an opinion on the editorial system, the general format, and the guidelines with regard to the articles and to assist the Publications Committee in any other matters which may arise.

- f. To provide an opinion to the Publications Committee with regard to the content of the Journal, including the themes, subjects of articles, and which articles should take precedence.
- g. To suggest and decide, together with the Publications Committee, the period within which contributions may be sent.
- h. To help and assist the Publications Committee in any problems which may arise with regard to the correcting and editing of articles.
- i. To communicate with the technical officers of the website and report any problems which there may be so as to better the quality of the website.
- j. To, together with the help of the Executive Board, issue calls for contributors for articles from both legal professionals as well as students via:
 - i. Emails.
 - ii. Periodical adverts on the GhSL website.
 - iii. Social networking and RSS feeds.
- k. To ensure that articles are published at regular, consistent intervals.
- l. To carry out any other function which may be handed to the officer by the Executive Board.