

# Principles of T. D. V. Cicero

## As determined on the 8th of November 2012

### Mission

The Tilburgse Debatvereniging Cicero offers students the possibility to improve their debating skills, with an emphasis placed on analysis, improvisation and confident speaking. In addition she works towards stimulating and broadening the debate concerning socially relevant topics and themes.

### Vision

The coming five years we wish to root ourselves locally. By moving to the heart of Dutch student life, and by maintaining close ties with the university, high schools and municipality we hope to build up a **solid position in the Tilburgian ecosystem**. This will not only provide us with branding, but will also improve the flow of new students and expand our co-operative ties.

When this basis has been secured, and the amount of members and the quality of debate are deemed efficient, the focus will move towards **expanding in the Dutch (and international) debating community**. That is to say we will move towards enhancing participation in (inter)national tournaments and a more competitive regular evening.

During this move at least three factors will remain important at all times:

- Through member **commitment**, members will remain invested in the association and will be more prepared to contribute to our activities. To improve on this we will organise separate social activities on top of our debating program and will allow members to take part in various committees.
- The **prestige** of our association, and the image that we offer quality, must be carried forward by the organisation of a highly-regarded national debating tournament and the provision of workshops to third parties. We will continue supporting these activities, expand where possible, and allow our members to become an integral part in our this branding.
- Our members can **practise** their debating skills through a combination of competitive debating, participation in tournaments and public discussions. We will attempt to provide a **broad view** to the participating audience for public discussions (such as a symposium). We will do this by allowing people with different intellectual, religious, cultural or political backgrounds to debate or discuss with one another.

# **By-Laws**

## **As determined on the 20th of September 2012**

### **Article 1**

1. The purpose of the By-Laws is the further allocation of tasks, authorities, rights and privileges for members and the association's organs, in so far these have not been covered in the statutes.

### **Article 2**

1. When used in the By-Laws the following terms mean:

- a) BL: the By-Laws of this Association
- b) GMA: General Members' Assembly
- c) Members: those that have been allowed to join this association in this capacity
- d) Board: the day to day board of this association
- e) AC: Advisory Committee
- f) MC: Master of Ceremonies, whoever chairs the GMA

### **Article 3**

1. The board looks after the interests of the association, executes the decisions of the GMA, ensures the Statutes and By-Laws are properly followed and maintains oversight of all committees, with the exception of the Auditory Committee
2. After each board meeting a decision and an actions list must be compiled. In principle these are not open to the members , unless the board decides otherwise.

### **Article 4**

1. The board can create committees that aid her in the exercising of her functions or can be tasked with the organisation of one or more activities
2. The board decides the structure of the committees and appoints the committee members. Only members of the association can be part of these committees.
3. The board can dismiss committee members at all times

## **Article 5**

1. The aim of the Advisory Committee is providing wanted and unwanted advise to the board regarding the course of the association
2. The AC must consist of at least 2 members
3. Any member of the association can nominate someone for the AC. The GMA appoints and dismisses the members of the AC
4. The AC attends a board meeting once a month
5. The AC has the right to hold meetings separate from the board
6. The AC can view the board actions and the decisions list on demand

## **Article 6**

1. Every September the regular GMA will take place
2. The irregular GMA will take place around February, with the mid-term realisations and the review of the association's course placed on the agenda
3. A GMA can never be held on a Saturday, Sunday and/or national holiday

## **Article 7**

1. The GMA's date must be announced at least 4 weeks in advance
2. Fixed agenda point, such as last meeting's minutes, the realisation and the agenda must be sent to the members at least 7 days in advance of the GMA

## **Article 8**

1. A motion of order should be brought to a vote immediately
3. The GMA's MC should change the order as stipulated in the motion in case it is approved
4. The GMA has the possibility to appoint a different MC by simple majority vote

## **Article 9**

1. The GMA can appoint a temporary voting committee by a simple majority vote. This committee must lead and oversee the voting procedure(s) during said GMA

## **Article 10**

1. When taking decisions on one motion, possible amendments must be decided on first, followed by the changed or unchanged motion.
2. When taking decisions upon multiple motions that address the same subject, different rounds of voting will be held until one motion is approved by majority vote or all motions have been rejected

## **Article 11**

1. Contribution can be lowered on an individual basis by the board. This is not the case for contribution for members of the board, the AC or the Auditory Committee

## **Article 12**

1. Every member that provides commercial services to third parties (such as a show-debates, workshops or presentations) on behalf of the association is entitled to compensation 2.

Generated profit must be divided within the following framework:

- a. At least 50% must be allocated to the trainer
- b. At least 25% must be allocated to the association's treasury

## **Article 13**

1. The appointment of honorary members can be decided by simple majority vote by the GMA

## **Article 14**

1. For the following tournaments, in the case more members are willing to go than is possible with available team spots, trials will be held, judged by an independent panel:

- a. World University Debating Competition
- b. European University Debating Competition

2. If for any other tournament, there are more interested members than available team spots, spots will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. With sufficient motivation, the board is able to reconsider this decision.

## **Article 15**

1. The Application Committee initiates the application procedure by announcing a deadline. Before this deadline, candidates looking to be part of the incumbent board's recommendations must send a motivation letter and their resume to the Application Committee, along with an indication of which position they would like to fulfil.

2. The Application Committee invites the applicants to an interview to evaluate their candidacy and to discuss their placing in a potential board.

- a. The Application Committee is not limited to discussing the positions indicated, but can consult the applicant's interest in all position
- b. One of the incumbent board members should take minutes of the interview
- c. An expert outsider may be brought in to ensure the quality of the interview, be it a member or a non-member

3. The Application Committee discusses on the formation of a candidate board internally

- a. Application details are not published
- b. The representative of the incumbent board and the AB can discuss application details with the incumbent board and AB, respectively

4. The Application Committee announces its candidate board on the second GMA of the calendar year.

- a. Members may propose their own candidate boards in accordance with the association's statutes
- b. The GMA holds a majority vote on the new board

5. The new board is inaugurated during the Regular GMA, and the old board is discharged

## **Article 16**

1. For the purpose of forming a new board, an Application Committee will be formed. This Committee will consist of one incumbent Board member, one AC member and a Members' Representative (MR)

2. The MR is elected by the GMA by majority vote. The Board and AC members are nominated by the Board and AC, respectively

3. The MR cannot be a member of the AC or the incumbent board, and cannot apply for a board position

## **Article 17**

1. The following adjustments affect the Statutes:

- a. Statuten artikel 9.4, bijzin "of de functie van penningmeester hebben uitgeoefend" vervalt.
- b. Statuten artikel 3.1, Het bestuur is in staat uitzonderingen op voorgaand artikel te maken zodra zij dit passend zien, redelijkheid in acht genomen.
- c. Statuten artikel 8.1, Minimum aantal bestuursleden is afhankelijk van animo voor bestuursfunctie onder de leden en het minimum van drie bestuursleden kan hierdoor komen te vervallen.

NOTE: In cases of discrepancies between Dutch Principles and the English translation, the Dutch Principles take precedence for Articles 1-13 and 17. English takes precedence for Articles 14, 15 and 16