The Constitution of the Feldenkrais Guild UK

(amended Sept 2024)

1. Name

1.1. The name of the organisation shall be the Feldenkrais Guild UK Ltd., hereinafter called 'Feldenkrais Guild UK'.

1.2. Members of the Feldenkrais Guild UK Ltd have the right to use 'The Feldenkrais Method®' registered trade mark, registration number: 1292689.

2. Objectives

2.1. The Feldenkrais Guild UK is a non-political and non-religious organisation.

2.2. The objectives of the Feldenkrais Guild UK are:

2.2.1. To foster the essential principles, philosophy and art of the Feldenkrais Method®, which includes 'Awareness Through Movement' and 'Functional Integration'. To establish and regulate standards of practice amongst those who teach, practice and advertise the Feldenkrais Method®.

2.2.2. To provide a 'Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct' for teachers/practitioners of the Feldenkrais Method® in the UK and to ensure that the required standards are maintained.

2.2.3. To act as a co-ordinating body for the maintenance of contact between all members and students/trainees (for definition see para. 3.1.1.6. and 3.1.1.7.) of the Feldenkrais Method® in the UK.

2.2.4. To promote the recognition and acceptance of the Feldenkrais Method® by the public and by professional bodies and to further the stature of the work developed by Moshe Feldenkrais.

2.2.5. To recognise and foster contacts with Feldenkrais organisations internationally.

2.2.6. To encourage, support and ratify professional training in the Feldenkrais Method® in the UK.

2.2.7. To develop resources and opportunities for further education of teachers/ practitioners.

2.2.8. To engage in and/or support research projects related to the Feldenkrais Method®.

2.2.9. To define membership, qualifications for membership, as well as the rights, privileges and responsibilities thereof.

3. Bylaws

3.1. Membership

3.1.1. Professional Membership

3.1.1.1. **Full Member** — teacher/practitioner of the Feldenkrais Method® who is normally resident in the UK and is qualified to teach 'Awareness through Movement' and to practise 'Functional Integration', through completion of a training accredited by a Training Accreditation Board recognised by the International Feldenkrais Federation including completion before the end of 2005, from a non Training Accreditation Board training of Mia Segal and Yochanan Rywerant, as recognised by the International Feldenkrais Federation.

3.1.1.2. The majority of Full Members are to have completed a training accredited by a Training Accreditation Board recognised by the International Feldenkrais Federation.

3.1.1.3. **Associate Member** — teacher/practitioner of the Feldenkrais Method® who is qualified to teach 'Awareness through Movement' and to practise 'Functional Integration', who wants to be part of the Feldenkrais Guild UK but does not choose full membership.

3.1.1.4. **Honorary Members** — are full members, proposed by the Committee for extraordinary service to the Feldenkrais community, on an occasional basis.

3.1.1.5. **Overseas Member** — teacher/practitioner of the Feldenkrais Method® qualified as above, but not resident in the UK.

3.1.1.6. **Student/Trainee Member** — student/trainee who is currently following an accredited training in the Feldenkrais Method® or a non-TAB-accredited training programme taught by a trainer of the Feldenkrais Method® who is recognised by the International Feldenkrais Federation.

3.1.1.7. **Student Teacher Member** — student/trainee who is currently following an accredited training in the Feldenkrais Method®, having been authorised to teach 'Awareness through Movement' according to EuroTAB regulations.

3.1.2. Public Membership

3.1.2.1. **Friends** — Members of the public who are interested in the Feldenkrais Method and are supporters of the Feldenkrais Guild UK.

3.1.2.2. **Patrons** — suitable persons invited to become Patrons of the Feldenkrais Guild UK upon agreement of the general membership at an Annual General meeting.

3.1.3. Ethics and Professional Conduct

Full Members and Student Teacher Members agree to practise and maintain the 'Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct'.

3.2. Voting Rights

Full Members and Student Teacher Members shall be the only voting members of the Feldenkrais Guild UK. Student representatives do not have voting rights in Committee meetings.

3.3. General Meetings

3.3.1. An Annual General Meeting of the Feldenkrais Guild UK shall be held at a time and venue agreed upon by the Executive Committee, hereinafter called the Committee. Officers and Committee members of the Feldenkrais Guild UK shall be elected at this meeting. At least two, preferably six, months notice shall be given to members of this date.

3.3.2. All decisions made at an Annual or General Meeting shall be on a simple majority vote, with one vote from each Full and Student Teacher Member. Valid written proxy votes shall be accepted. The Chairperson shall have a vote to resolve a deadlock.

3.3.3. During elections, existing Officers and Committee members shall temporarily stand down and the voting members present shall elect from their number a returning officer, who is not standing for election to any position. In the event of a tied ballot, a second ballot shall be held between the candidates receiving the most votes at the first ballot. Balloting shall continue until a decision is reached.

3.3.4. All major decisions and disbursement of funds will be decided at an Annual or General meeting unless the membership is in agreement that they can be delegated to the Committee.

3.3.5. General Meetings shall require a quorum of 25% of the voting members, with a minimum of 12 members. In the event of an in-quorate first meeting, a subsequent meeting shall be arranged at which the required quorum shall be 15%.

3.3.6. An Extraordinary General meeting shall be held within two months of the Honorary Secretary receiving written requests for such a meeting from at least 50% of the voting members, or if considered necessary by the Committee.

3.3.7. A written copy of the agenda shall be sent to each member at least one month in advance of any General Meeting. All items for inclusion on the agenda of any General Meeting shall be submitted six weeks before the General Meeting.

3.4. Dues

3.4.1. All Annual Dues shall expire on the 31 July each year and renewal payments for the following year shall be due on 1 August and shall commence within one month of notification by the Honorary Secretary.

3.4.2. The Annual Dues of all members shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting and for Full and Student Teacher Members shall entitle access to meetings, resources and facilities of the Feldenkrais Guild UK, entry in the Directory of Teachers/Practitioners, special rates for events organised by the Feldenkrais Guild UK; for other members the benefits to be determined at the Annual General Meeting.

3.4.3. Any member whose dues are one month in arrears shall forfeit his/her right to be listed in the Directory and more than three months in arrears shall cease to be a member of the Feldenkrais Guild UK.

3.5. Definition and Function of the Committee

3.5.1. The management of the Feldenkrais Guild UK shall be by the Committee, which shall consist of the Officers and elected Full Members.

3.5.2. In addition there shall be 1-2 student/trainee member(s) from each training in the UK. Only one student/trainee member per training shall attend a Committee meeting. The Committee shall consist of 6 - 14 members (excl. student representatives).

3.5.3. Each student/trainee member shall be elected from and by the current students/trainees resident in the UK on their training, to act as their student representative (the role can be shared).

3.5.4. The Committee shall meet at least 3 times a year and at least one month's notice shall be given of any meeting.

3.5.5. The Committee shall require a quorum of 50% at any meeting. In the absence of the elected Chairperson at any meeting, the Committee may nominate a substitute Chairperson pro tem.

3.5.6. The Committee can co-opt up to two additional members during the membership year.

3.5.7. Working Groups can be created by the Committee. Each Working Group has at least one Committee member in it.

3.5.8. The Committee shall be responsible for decisions concerning the daily management of the Feldenkrais Guild UK including decisions concerning disbursements of funds and enforcing the Feldenkrais Guild UK's 'Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct', in accordance with the policy agreed at the Annual General Meeting.

3.6. Officers

3.6.1. The Officers of the Guild shall be the Chairperson, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, who shall be elected from the Professional Members at the AGM. They shall serve a term of three years. After completing the three year term, an Officer shall be eligible for re-election for a one year term and may stand for re-election for three consecutive one year terms. An Officer may hold office for a maximum of six consecutive years. In the event of an Officer resigning before the end of their term the Committee may appoint a person to undertake their duties until an Officer is elected.

3.6.2. The Chairperson of the Committee shall preside at the Committee and all General Meetings.

3.6.3. The Honorary Secretary shall call meetings, draw up agendas in consultation with the Chairperson and keep a record of minutes of meetings. The Committee shall keep a register of members which shall record name, address, date enrolled, date qualified as a Student Teacher of 'Awareness through Movement' and date graduated from a professional training programme. Responsibility for the register of members may be delegated to a Membership Secretary or Administrative Assistant.

3.6.4. The Honorary Treasurer shall receive, disburse and clearly account for all funds of the Feldenkrais Guild UK.

3.6.5. If the position of Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer cannot be filled, the Committee may engage a suitably qualified person to undertake the duties on terms agreed at a General Meeting. This person shall have no voting rights.

3.7. Codes of Conduct

3.7.1. The 'Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct' is included as an appendix to this Constitution and will be periodically reviewed and updated.

3.7.2. The 'Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct' shall detail standards to be maintained in the practice of the Feldenkrais Method® The Code and any alterations to it must be confirmed by vote at a General Meeting.

3.7.3. The 'Equality & Diversity Policy' is included as an appendix to this Constitution and will be periodically reviewed and updated.

3.7.4. The Feldenkrais Guild UK shall have a 'Privacy Policy' which will be regularly reviewed and updated accordingly.

3.8. Accounts

The accounts of the Feldenkrais Guild UK shall be available for inspection by any member on reasonable notice to the Honorary Treasurer. They shall be audited and presented to each Annual General meeting for approval.

3.9. Professional Services

The Committee shall be responsible for the selection and appointment of accountants, bankers, solicitors, administrative assistants etc., whose services are required by the Feldenkrais Guild UK; to be approved at the Annual General Meeting.

3.10. Changes to the Constitution/Bylaws

Any amendment to this Constitution and these Bylaws shall require a two-thirds majority of votes cast at a quorate General Meeting. A valid vote is one which is either cast in person or in writing before the beginning of the meeting.

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Original Draft of Constitution and Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct agreed at:

First Annual General Meeting, September 1990

Modifications agreed at:

Annual General Meeting, September 1992

Annual General Meeting, September 1994

Extraordinary General Meeting October 1995

Annual General Meeting, September 1998 (Revised Code of Ethics)

Annual General Meeting, September 2003

Annual General Meeting, September 2004

Annual General Meeting, September 2006

Annual General Meeting, September 2021

Annual General Meeting, October 2022

Annual General Meeting, September 2024

Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct

Feldenkrais Guild UK