



CONSTITUTION

Adopted by referendum on September 23rd, 2022 A.D.

ARTICLE I. Name and mandate

- 1.1. The full title of the recognized student group (group) shall be “Let’s Talk Politics: Q & A Seminars.”
- 1.2. The short title of the group shall be “Let’s Talk Politics.”
- 1.3. The official acronym of the group shall be “LTP.”
- 1.4. The mandate of the group shall be to develop and administer for the benefit of the larger community interactive seminars that offer participants the opportunity to gain practical knowledge of Canadian politics and governance from diverse perspectives.

ARTICLE II. Membership

- 2.1. The recognized student group (group) shall maintain a list of all registered members.
- 2.2. Voting membership, referred to hereafter as general membership, shall be open to all registered students of the University of Toronto as defined in the *University of Toronto Act*.
- 2.3. Non-voting membership, hereafter referred to as observer membership, shall be open to University of Toronto staff, faculty, alumni, and to persons from outside the University. Unless otherwise provided by this constitution or group by-laws, observing members shall not hold any of the rights awarded to general members.

- 2.4. The membership fee will be set annually at a public meeting during the fall semester by the Executive Board, and shall not exceed \$2.
- 2.5. The membership fee shall be charged annually.

ARTICLE III. Rights of members

- 3.1. Any member may apply for a full refund of their membership fee within one (1) month of becoming a member.
- 3.2. General and observing members shall have the right to attend all public meetings of members as defined in section 8.2.
- 3.3. General members shall have the right to stand for election.
- 3.4. General members shall have a right to cast votes in all group elections and referenda.
- 3.5. General members shall have a right to propose and vote on amendments to this constitution.
- 3.6. Unless otherwise provided for, the rights prescribed in Article III shall not be awarded to observing members as defined in section 2.3.
- 3.7. Only general members of the Executive Board or group volunteers appointed by the same may represent themselves as primary or secondary contacts of the group.

ARTICLE IV. Executive Board

- 4.1. The registered student group (group) shall be governed by an Executive Board (Board).
- 4.2. The Board, except as otherwise provided for by section 4.4, shall be composed entirely of general members elected for a term from September 19th until April 30th.
- 4.3. The Board may not exceed 11 general members and the number of observing members defined in section 4.5.

- 4.4. Observing members may hold non-voting advisory positions on the Board.
- 4.5. The maximum amount of advisors on the Board shall be one (1) position or ten per cent (10%) of the positions on the Board, whichever is greatest.
- 4.6. Persons holding an advisory position on the Board shall not serve as an officer, financial authority, signing authority, primary contact, or secondary contact.
- 4.7. No member of the Board or member of the group more generally shall serve as a financial authority or signing authority for the group unless they are:
 - 4.7.1. Not currently serving as a financial authority or signing authority for another group at the University of Toronto;
 - 4.7.2. Currently serving on the Board in a position that requires them to act as a financial authority or signing authority or currently serving as an appointed volunteer authorised by a group by-law to act as a financial authority or signing authority.

ARTICLE V. Executive Board composition, authority, and mandate

- 5.1. The Executive Board (Board) shall have the authority to enact and enforce by-laws by simple majority that govern:
 - 5.1.1. The number and role of Board members not already provided for in this constitution;
 - 5.1.2. The annual membership fee;
 - 5.1.3. The requirements and standards that general and observing members must meet;
 - 5.1.4. The process for accepting and recording the membership of general and observing members;
 - 5.1.5. Any other lawful and legitimate process, regulation, practice, or standard that relates to the recognized student group's (group) mandate as interpreted by the Board.

5.2. By-laws enacted by the Board shall require a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority to be repealed.

5.3. The Board shall have the authority to appoint volunteers to assume as necessary delegated duties as defined in section 5.8, other mandates defined in Board by-laws, or to conduct elections.

5.2.1. The Board shall define the hiring process for each volunteer position in the by-law authorising the creation of the position.

5.2.2. If not already a member of the group, a volunteer appointee shall become a member upon their appointment to the position.

5.2.3. An appointed volunteer shall be removed only if they violate the general terms of membership.

5.3. The Board shall have the authority to appoint advisory members as defined in section 4.4 to the Board.

5.4. The Board shall, at minimum, consist of the President, the Vice President, and the Treasurer.

5.5. The President shall:

5.5.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Board;

5.5.2. Oversee the general operations and management of the group;

5.5.3. Serve as the spokesperson of the group;

5.5.4. Hold signing and financial authority along with the Treasurer;

5.5.5. Act as or appoint a speaker during meetings of the Board and/or general members;

5.5.5. Ensure a transition of office from one year to the next;

5.5.6. Maintain a list of group members and a repository of by-laws enacted by the Board;

5.5.7. Notify all members of public meetings.

5.6. The Vice President shall:

5.6.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Board;

5.6.2. Assume the duties of the President in their absence or as otherwise reasonably requested by the President;

5.6.3. Ensure activities of the club comply with the policies of the University of Toronto;

5.6.4. Coordinate organisational recruitment efforts;

5.6.5. Assess the legitimacy of membership termination proposals as defined in section 8.1 and present reports to the Board accordingly.

5.7. The Treasurer shall:

5.7.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Board;

5.7.2. Record all financial transactions of the group;

5.7.3. Hold signing and financial authority along with the President;

5.7.4. Maintain a budget of income and expenses;

5.7.5. Advise members and the Board on the financial position of the group as requested or during public meetings as defined in section 8.2;

5.7.6. Prepare an annual budget for the group.

5.8. Any member of the Board shall have the authority to delegate any responsibility assigned to them by this constitution or a group by-law, provided that:

5.8.1. The delegation of the responsibility shall not impair the effectiveness and responsiveness of the Board;

5.8.2. A volunteer can be selected and appointed without undue hardship on the operation of the group.

ARTICLE VI. Elections

6.1. All voting positions on the Executive Board (Board) shall be filled through an annual general election.

- 6.2.** All general members shall be eligible to seek nomination to and cast a ballot for each voting position.
- 6.3.** All observing members shall be eligible to seek appointment to the Board in an advisory capacity.
- 6.4.** Observing members shall not be eligible to cast a ballot for any elected position.
- 6.5.** The nominee winning the plurality of votes cast in the election for each position shall be deemed the winner.
- 6.6.** All elections must be conducted by group volunteers as defined in section 5.2.
- 6.7.** No individual seeking election may participate in the planning or administration of any election or referendum.
- 6.8.** In the event that an elected member of the Board is removed or resigns from their position, and the elected member leaves the Board more than 60 days before their term is complete, a general by-election to fill the position shall be held.
 - 6.8.1.** In the event that an elected member of the Board is removed or resigns from their position with fewer than 60 days before their term is complete, the Board shall appoint a volunteer to fill the position.

ARTICLE VII. Finances

- 7.1.** The Treasurer shall keep an active record of all income and expenses for the registered student group (group).
- 7.2.** The Treasurer shall present updates on the group's financial position at public meetings and at the request of the President.
- 7.3.** The group shall not engage in activities that are essentially commercial in nature.
- 7.4.** The group shall not have as a major activity a function that makes it an on-campus chapter of a commercial organisation.

- 7.5. The group shall not provide goods or services at a profit when that profit is used for purposes other than those of the group.
- 7.6. The group shall not pay salaries to any member.

ARTICLE VIII. Meetings

- 8.1. The Executive Board (Board) shall meet monthly. The quorum for Board meetings shall be 50%+1 of the voting Board members.
- 8.2. The registered student group (group) shall hold public meetings at least twice per year to provide the general and observing membership an opportunity to review the group's activity and financial health.
- 8.3. The group shall hold a public meeting coordinated by the previous year's Board and within the month of September to elect the next year's Board and to set the year's membership fee.
- 8.4. The Board shall announce the date of a public meeting to the general and observing membership at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting.
- 8.5. The President shall have the authority to call emergency meetings in addition to those required by section 8.1. Members of the Board must receive at least 24 hours notice and may not be penalised for failing to attend.
- 8.6. Elected officers of the Board who fail to attend without reasonable excuse in excess of three monthly meetings may be removed from their position by a simple majority vote of the Board.

ARTICLE IX. Termination of membership

- 9.1. The Executive Board (Board) may revoke the membership of any member of the recognized student group (group) who commits an act that harms the interests of the group and its members.
- 9.2. A vote to revoke membership shall be held at a meeting of the Board.

- 9.3. A two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of the Board and a recommendation as defined in section 5.6 from the Vice President shall be required to approve any motion to revoke membership.
- 9.4. Any member facing removal shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Board to the general membership.
- 9.5. In the case of an appeal, a simple majority vote at a public meeting shall be required to sustain the revocation of membership.
- 9.6. Following a termination of membership, the removed member shall be removed from the group's membership and forfeit any rights, privileges, or duties associated with group membership.

ARTICLE X. Amendments

- 10.1. All constitutional amendments shall be proposed at a public meeting.
- 10.2. All constitutional amendments shall require a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote of the attending general membership to pass.
- 10.3. All general members may propose and vote on amendments to the constitution.
- 10.4. The Vice President shall submit the revised constitution to staff at the Division of Student Life at the University of Toronto (Division staff) within two (2) weeks.
- 10.5. No constitutional amendment shall take effect until it has been reviewed and approved by Division staff.