

Constitution of “Bridges U of T Student Chapter”

Article One – Name and Purpose

1. The official name of the recognized student group is “Bridges U of T Student Chapter”. It may also be referred to as Bridges (UofT), Bridges UofT, Bridges – UofT, Bridges UTSG, Bridges Toronto, Bridges International, Bridges International (UofT), Bridges International UofT, Bridges International — UofT, Bridges International UTSG, Bridges International Toronto.
 - a. It may also be referred to by its previous names: Global Community, GC, P2C Global Community, Global Community—U of T, Global Community (U of T), Global Community @ U of T, GC—U of T, GC (U of T), GC @ U of T. It has also previously been called P2C International Students.
 - b. It may also be referred to by a mix of the current name and previous names, for example Bridges - Global Community. No other names may be used to refer to this club.
2. There is no official acronym or abbreviation at this time.
3. Bridges is affiliated with Power to Change (P2C), Power to Change—Students (P2C-S) and Bridges International. It is also associated with Zoe Toronto, Toronto International Students (TIS), and Helping International Students (HIS).

Article Two – Purpose and Objectives

1. The purpose, objectives, mission of the organization is to:
 - a. offer service and hospitality to international students (and other interested students); support international students practically as they adjust to living abroad and to student life
 - b. offer friendship and community to international students; support international students socially as they develop a network of both local and international friends in the campus community and the city
 - c. encourage students to consider spiritual questions and explore their spirituality; support international students spiritually as they think through life’s big questions and explore faith
 - d. to connect students with opportunities for service in the city of Toronto and around the world, including through Bridges
 - e. to develop students as leaders
 - f. to train interested students (domestic and international) in Christian spiritual disciplines
2. Bridges seeks to achieve the aforementioned objective by means of (but not limited to);
 - a. offering social events

- b. collaborating with organizations in the city that are aligned with our purposes and values
 - c. hosting programs that provide practical, social, and/or spiritual support that help international students thrive and enjoy life in Canada (such as career support, holiday dinners, etc.)
 - d. hosting program and dialogues around spiritual topics, particularly as they relate to Jesus
 - e. communicating ongoing opportunities for service in the city of Toronto and beyond
 - f. provide mentorship and leadership development opportunities
3. Bridges joins with Power to Change in their Statement of Faith.
 4. Bridges is also considered a University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU) club and thus is responsible to operate within the rules and regulations as outlined by the most current University of Toronto Students' Union Clubs Policy Manual.

Article Three – Membership and Membership Fee

1. The group shall maintain a list of group members.
2. Membership is open to everyone in the University of Toronto community including students, staff, faculty, alumni, and chaplains.
3. Membership in Bridges signifies that a member will respect, affirm, and contribute to the core purposes and beliefs as outlined in Article II.
4. Voting membership is open to all registered students of the University of Toronto.
5. Voting membership is open only to registered students of the University of Toronto.
6. Non-voting membership is open to University of Toronto staff, faculty, alumni, and to persons from outside the University. Unless otherwise stated, non-voting members do not hold any rights awarded to voting members.
7. Unless otherwise stated, all persons are welcome to attend meetings and events of Bridges, subject to the cost, space, and or time limitations that there may be. Membership shall not be a prerequisite for participation except in voting at the Annual General Meeting and in holding executive positions.
8. In keeping with UTSU policy, at least 50% of membership in Bridges will consist of UTSU members (full-time undergrad students at St. George campus) at all times.
9. There is no membership fee to become or remain a member of Bridges.

Article Four – Rights of Members

1. Bridges does not have a membership fee, but if we did:

- a. A member may apply to his/her club for a refund within one (1) month of becoming a member of the club, or within one (1) week of club's first official event if:
 - i. There has been a misinterpretation of the club's mandate and proposed activities as specified to the member when signing onto the club.
 - b. A member may only apply to his/her club for a refund after one (1) month of signing up for membership for the club, or after one (1) week of the club's first official event for extenuating circumstances;
 - i. Extenuating circumstances include, but are not limited to:
 1. Serious organizational issues with the club executive that led to a complete lack of communication to its members, or lack of programming as promoted to its members; and,
 2. Any circumstances that seriously hampers the ability for the club member to enjoy its membership to the club.
 - ii. Where a club and its members cannot resolve the refund issue, a club or the member may request assistance from the Clubs Coordinator who will act as a mediator between the Club and the member to reach a resolution.
2. All voting members have a right to attend all general meetings of members.
 3. All voting members have a right to cast votes at all general meetings of members.
 4. All voting members have a right to stand for election unless otherwise stated in this document.
 5. All voting members have a right to cast votes in all group elections and referenda.
 6. All voting members have a right to propose and vote on amendments to this constitution.
 7. The rights prescribed in Article Four are not awarded to non-voting members as described in Article Three.

Article Five - Executive Committee

1. The core positions on the incoming executive group will be determined by an election at an annual general members meeting (AGMM) to be held before Winter session ends.
2. All members are allowed to run for core positions on the executive group.
3. There will be an interview process to explain executive job description and expectations to nominees.

4. The term for all positions on the Executive Committee shall be from May 1st to April 30th.
5. The executive group shall coordinate policies and overall program for the effective accomplishment of the purposes of Bridges and shall be the final authority in all matters pertaining to Bridges.
6. The positions for the incoming executive group will be submitted with the list of the executives to the University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU).
7. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of three (3) voting members.
8. All voting members of the Executive Committee must be currently registered students of the University of Toronto.
9. Non-voting members may hold only non-voting positions on the Executive Committee.
10. The maximum amount of non-voting positions on the Executive Committee shall be one (1) position or ten per cent (10%) of the positions on the Executive Committee, whichever is greatest.
11. Persons holding non-voting positions on the Executive Committee cannot serve as an officer, financial authority, signing authority, primary contact, or secondary contact.
12. No person may serve as a financial authority or signing authority for the group if they are currently serving as a financial authority or signing authority for another recognized student group at the University of Toronto.
13. The core positions of the executive group must consist of at least the following positions:
 - a. President;
 - b. Vice-President/Treasurer
 - c. Secretary

Article Six - Executive Committee Composition and Duties

1. The President shall:
 - a. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
 - b. Oversee the operations, management, and success of the group,
 - c. Serve as spokesperson for the group to the Student Administrative Council and to other organizations,
 - d. Endeavour to provide leadership to members of the club by his/her participation and example,
 - e. Preside over meetings of the Executive Committee and/or members including general meetings,
 - f. Ensure a transition of office from one year to the next.
 - g. Have signing authority for the club along with the VP/Treasurer.
2. The Vice-President/Treasurer shall:

- a. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
 - b. Assume duties of the President in their absence,
 - c. Ensure activities of the club comply with policies of the University of Toronto,
 - d. Coordinate organizational recruitment efforts.
 - e. Record all financial transactions of the group,
 - f. Hold signing and financial authority along with the President,
 - g. Maintain a budget of income and expenses,
 - h. Advise members on financial position of the group,
 - i. Prepare an annual budget for the group.
3. The Secretary shall:
- a. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
 - b. Maintain a list of group members,
 - c. Plan and oversee general members meetings
 - d. Oversee various events and club opportunities,
 - e. Delegate various efforts to club leaders,
 - f. Maintain the group website and member contact list,
 - g. Record notes and motions for meetings,
 - h. Notify all members of general meetings.
4. Honourary members of the executive group shall:
- a. Participate in decision making made by the executive group on behalf of the club

Article Seven – Elections

1. All voting positions on the Executive Committee shall be filled through an annual election.
2. An interview process (for the purpose of reviewing responsibilities and expectations; not to select) will be conducted a minimum of three weeks before the AGMM for all nominees. This interview process is encouraged for all nominees, but is optional.
3. Two weeks before the AGMM, all nominees must decide if they wish to run for an executive position.
4. At the AGMM, a secret paper ballot will be conducted in which a simple majority vote will determine who is elected.
5. Votes will be tallied by one executive who is not running and two randomly chosen non-executive members attending the AGMM.
6. In preparation for a tie, the aforementioned executive will cast their ballot and seal it in an envelope. In the event of a tie for an executive position, one of the two aforementioned non-executive members shall break the seal and count the ballot in order to break the tie.
7. On the condition that multiple candidates are to be elected for a single position, the nominees winning the largest share of the votes cast shall be deemed the winners until all positions are filled.

8. If an executive member is unable to fulfill their responsibilities, a bi-election will be held as soon as possible, following the guidelines set above.
9. Registered U of T members may not vote by proxy. Non-U of T members may not nominate or vote in elections.
10. All voting group members shall be eligible to seek nomination to and cast a ballot for each voting position.
11. All non-voting group members shall be eligible to seek nomination only for non-voting positions on the Executive Committee.
12. Non-voting group members shall not be eligible to cast a ballot for any elected position.
13. The elections must be held in a nonbiased manner. No individual who is seeking election may participate in planning or administering the election.

Article Eight – Finances

1. Power to Change, Zoe Toronto, HIS, or other organizations may at times voluntarily provide funding to Bridges for various club initiatives and events
2. The Bridges account shall be held with the University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU) Accounting Dept. and shall be subject to all University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU) regulations, audits etc. as determined by the University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU)
3. The VP/Treasurer is responsible for keeping track of budget (expenditure, funds) related to events occurring throughout the year.
4. The VP/Treasurer shall present the group's updates on the group's financial position at annual general meetings.
5. The Executive Committee must approve all expenditures over \$100.00 through a majority vote at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
6. The group may not engage in activities that are essentially commercial in nature.
7. The group will not have as a major activity a function that makes it an on-campus chapter of a commercial organization.
8. The group will not provide services and goods at a profit when that profit is used for purposes other than those of the group.
9. The group will not pay salaries to any of its officers.

Article Nine – Meetings

1. The Executive Committee shall meet once a semester or as needed. The quorum for Executive Committee meetings shall be 50%+1 of the voting members of the Executive Committee.

2. The group shall hold general meetings at least twice per year to provide the general membership an opportunity to review the group's annual activity plan, financial health, and propose or vote on constitutional amendments.
3. The Executive Committee must announce the date of a general meeting to the general membership at least one (1) week prior to the date of the meeting.

Article Ten – Termination of Membership

1. The Executive Committee may revoke the membership of any member of the club who commits an act negatively affecting the interests of the club and its members, including non-disclosure of a significant or continuing conflict of interest.
2. A vote to revoke membership must be held at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
3. A two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee is required to approve any motion to revoke membership.
4. Any member facing removal shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Executive Committee to the general membership.
5. In the case of an appeal, a simple majority vote at a meeting of the general membership shall be required to sustain the revocation of membership.
6. Following a termination of membership, the member will be removed from the club's membership and will lose any privileges associated with being a member of the club.

Article Eleven – Removal of Executive Members

1. Executive Committee members are subject to the same termination of membership process as general members.
2. The office of an executive group member shall be automatically vacated:
 - a. If he or she ceases to be a member of Bridges;
 - b. If by notice in writing to the executive group he or she resigns from their office;
 - c. If he or she is medically declared unsound in mind;
 - d. If he or she negotiated unauthorized transactions in the name of Bridges;
 - e. If his or her convictions so change that he or she is no longer able to subscribe to the statement of agreement to the purposes and statements of belief of Bridges; or
 - f. If he or she ceases to be or is not a registered student at the University of Toronto.

3. If a President or VP/Treasurer leaves office, the Nomination Committee's executive selection and ratification process will be followed.

Article Twelve – Amendments

1. All constitutional amendments shall require a 2/3 majority vote to be passed at a general meeting.
2. All voting members may propose and vote on amendments to the constitution.
3. The Executive Committee shall submit the revised constitution to staff in the Division of Student Life at the University of Toronto within two (2) weeks.
4. Amendments to the constitution shall take effect only once the revised constitution has been approved by staff in the Division of Student Life at the University of Toronto.