

Constitution of the “Philosophy Discussion Group”

1. Name

The official name of this recognized campus group is the “Philosophy Discussion Group”

The acronym or abbreviation of this group is: “Philosophy Discussion Group” or “PDG”

2. Purpose and Objectives

The purpose, objectives, mission and/or mandate of organization is outlined here:

The Philosophy Discussion Group provides a space in which prevailing philosophical notions are confronted, examined, and critiqued through dialectic by its members. The goal of this club is to engender a philosophical culture and community at the University of Toronto that is challenging, rigorous, and disruptive. All members have an equal right to speak and discuss a central topic proposed by the executive committee (although mechanisms for member suggestions remain open) accompanied by a text from Continental tradition. Meetings will be held once per week. Our vision is to create a close-knit group of 20-30 or so regular members who hold interest in Continental philosophy (but not necessarily restricted to it). Students and faculty of all backgrounds are welcome. The Philosophy Discussion Group will not tolerate racism, homophobia, sexism, or any other such discrimination. At the same time, the club will hopefully critically evaluate the concepts of race, sexuality, gender, and so on.

3. Membership

Voting membership is only open to registered students of the University of Toronto (U of T). Non-voting membership is open to U of T 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.

Voting members are permitted to run and vote in elections. Voting members are permitted to propose and vote on constitutional amendments.

Members must register with a designated executive by submitting their full name and a valid email address. There is no membership fee; the group is free of charge to all members

4. Executive List and Duties

The executive committee shall be comprised of two (2) or three (3) elected officers. These include a President, Vice President, and Treasurer. While the President may only hold that office, the offices of Vice President and Treasurer may be combined, if necessary.

The President shall:

- Oversee the operations, management and success of the group
- Be the spokesperson for the group
- Hold signing officer authority along with the Treasurer for financial purposes
- Preside over board meetings as well as general meetings
- Ensure transition of office to the future Executives

The Vice-President shall:

- Assume duties of the President in their absence
- Assist the President in their duties when required to do so
- Ensure that all the activities of the club meet regulations and policies of the University of Toronto
- Coordinate organizational recruitment efforts

The Treasurer shall:

- Record all financial transactions of the group
- Hold signing officer authority along with the President for financial purposes
- Maintain a budget of income and expenses along with receipts
- Advise members on financial position of the group
- Prepare an annual budget for the group as well as budgets for specific events

The group may appoint Directors or Coordinators for various committees such as social committee, publicity committee, and so on; however, such positions do not hold executive decision-making authority.

Termination of Executives or General Members:

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, may be given notice of removal.

The member up for removal shall have the right to defend their actions.

A two-thirds majority vote of the current members present in favor of removal is required. The member must have the right to an appeal before the general membership, and the majority vote of the general membership will have the final say on the matter.

The member will be removed from the club's membership and will lose any privileges associated with being a member of the club.

Executive members are subject to the same termination or impeachment process and, as determined by the vote, may lose their executive position along with their membership to the group.

5. Elections

The executive committee shall strike the Elections Committee and appoint one (1) Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and two (2) Scrutinizers from the general members on the committee to conduct and hold elections in March. All members of the Elections Committee shall be nonbiased in the results of the election and shall be required to disclose any and all conflicts of interest in the election.

The CRO shall accept nominations only from voting members (i.e., registered students at U of T) for candidacy of executive positions from the general membership before the beginning of March. Candidates have to be members in good standing and be part of the group for at least one month prior to the nomination period.

The CRO shall select three (3) election dates before March 30th for the voting period. These dates will be announced in a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to elections dates and must fall on weekdays.

The CRO and Scrutinizers shall provide each U of T member with a paper ballot on the voting dates and ask the member to place their ballot in an enclosed box.

In preparation for a tie, the CRO shall select an executive from amongst the executive committee, to cast their ballot and seal it in an envelope. In the event of a tie for an executive position, one of the two Scrutinizers shall break the seal and count the ballot in order to break the tie.

After the election is over, the CRO and Scrutinizers shall count the ballots. The candidate with the most votes shall be elected to the position. The CRO and Scrutinizers shall submit a report of the results of the elections to the Executive Committee and general members.

Registered U of T members may not vote by proxy.

Only U of T members who have been a member in good standing for 30 days prior to election dates are eligible for voting.

Term of executive positions shall be from May 1st to April 30th.

6. Finances

The Treasurer shall keep records of all income and expenses. The Treasurer shall present the group's financial health at the annual general meetings. The Executive Committee will vote on expenditures of over \$100.00 by majority vote at an executive meeting.

The group's executive or members may not engage in activities that are essentially commercial in nature. This is not intended to preclude the collection of membership fees to cover the expenses of the group, or of charges for specific activities, programs or events, or to prohibit groups from engaging in legitimate fundraising. However, the group will not have as a major activity a function that makes it an on-campus part of a commercial organization, will not provide services and goods

at a profit when that profit is used for purposes other than those of the organization, and will not pay salaries to some or all of its officers.

7. Meetings

A) Annual General Meetings (AGMs):

The group shall hold general meetings at least twice per year, i.e. once per academic term.

The Executive Committee will announce these dates two (2) weeks prior to holding the meetings. These meetings are intended to go over the group's annual activity plan, financial health and propose or vote on constitutional amendments, if any. Motions will require 2/3 majority of registered members in attendance for a vote to be cast. The motion with the most votes will be passed.

b) Executive Meetings:

The executive committee shall meet on a monthly basis where date and times are to be set by an executive. The quorum of executive meetings shall be 50%+1 of executives.

8. Amendments

Any registered U of T members may propose and vote on amendments to this constitution. The Executive Committee will administer the process of having amendments discussed at general meetings.

Constitutional amendments shall require a 2/3 majority to be passed at Annual General Meetings by registered U of T members in attendance.

The Executive Committee shall formally adopt the new constitution and submit the revised constitution to the respective University offices (i.e. The Office of Student Life, The University of Toronto Students' Union, etc) within two (2) weeks of its approval by general members.