

University of Toronto

Art in Politics Student Association - APSA - Constitution 24'-25'



Article One – Name and Purpose

Preamble

The Art and Politics Student Association (APSA) is a student-led group that strives to bring attention to creative expression encapsulating political issues and events. The main objective is to encourage and appreciate the use of art as a form of political expression. Art has always been a key component of political movements. The Arts in Politics Association desires to create an environment for students to express themselves and their political views through visual arts. We hope to provide a space for students to feel comfortable expressing themselves through different mediums of visual arts practice and bring light to art that has historically impacted movements. Topics can range from race, gender, identity, mental health, interests, and how both politics and art converse with each other. The APSA hopes to allow students to express their political views through their creativity, find the resources in the GTA that also promote political visual expression, and honor their opinions through discussions, gallery shows, and collaborative events.

Vision

To provide a space for students and bring awareness to the progressive relationships between past and present politics and visual arts. We hope to build a bridge between the fields of Politics and Visual Arts at UofT.

Mission Statement

We aspire to implement creativity, academics, and community development to provide an artistic space where students can be seen and heard in a political world through visual arts.

Article Two – Membership and Membership Fee

- 2.1. Voting membership is open only to registered students of the University of Toronto (undergraduate and graduate; full-time and part-time).
- 2.2. The membership fee will be \$0 per year.
- 2.3. The group shall maintain a list of group members.
- 2.4. Membership is open to all three campuses.

Article Three – Rights of Members

- 3.2. All voting members have a right to attend all general meetings of members.
- 3.3. All voting members have a right to cast votes at all general meetings of members.
- 3.4. All voting members have a right to stand for election unless otherwise stated in this document.
- 3.5. All voting members have a right to cast votes in all group elections and referendums.
- 3.6. All voting members have a right to propose and vote on amendments to this constitution.

Article Four - Executive Committee

- 4.1. The term for all positions on the Executive Committee shall be from October 1st to August 31st.
- 4.2. The Executive Committee shall be composed of five (5) voting members.
- 4.3. All voting members of the Executive Committee must be currently registered students of the University of Toronto.
- 4.5. The Executive may appoint Directors or Coordinators for various committees who do not hold executive decision-making authority and are not eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee.

Article Five - Executive Committee Composition and Duties

5.1. Co-Presidents (2):

- 5.1.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
- 5.1.2. Oversee the operations, management, and success of the group,

- 5.1.3. Serve as spokesperson(s) for the group,
- 5.1.4. Hold signing and financial authority along with the Treasurer,
- 5.1.5. Preside and schedule meetings of the Executive Committee and/or members
- 5.1.6. Ensure a transition of office from one year to the next.

5.2. Events Coordinator (1):

- 5.2.1. Organize club events.
- 5.2.2. Collaborate with other organizations to create events.
- 5.2.3. Effectively promote organized events.
- 5.2.4. Communicate to the treasurer the expenses needed for events, if any.

5.3. Treasurer (1):

- 5.3.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
- 5.3.2. Attend all meetings and record all financial transactions of the group,
- 5.3.3. Hold signing and financial authority along with the Co-Presidents,
- 5.3.4. Maintain a budget of income and expenses,
- 5.3.5. Advise members on the financial position of the group,
- 5.3.6. Prepare an annual budget for the group.

5.4. Communications and Outreach (1):

- 5.4.1. Attend all meetings
- 5.4.2. Assist with events and liaising with partners outside the university
- 5.4.3. Reaching out to speakers, booking venues, and finding off-campus opportunities for the club.

Article Six – Elections

- 6.1. All voting positions on the Executive Committee shall be filled through an annual election.
- 6.2. All voting group members shall be eligible to seek nomination to and cast a ballot for each voting position.
- 6.5. The nominee winning the plurality of votes cast in the election for each position shall be deemed the winner.
- 6.6. 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.

- 6.7. The elections must be held in a nonbiased manner. No individual who is seeking election may participate in planning or administering the election.
- 6.8. For all unfilled positions, the elected executives can fill vacant positions for eligible candidates.

Article Seven – Finances

- 7.1. The Treasurer shall keep an active record of income and expenses.
- 7.2. The Treasurer shall present the group's updates on the group's financial position at annual general meetings.
- 7.3. The Executive Committee must approve all expenditures over \$100.00 through a majority vote at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 7.4. The group may not engage in activities that are essentially commercial in nature.
- 7.6. The group will not provide services and goods at a profit when that profit is used for purposes other than those of the group.
- 7.7. The group will not pay salaries to any of its officers.

Article Eight – Meetings

- 8.1. The Executive Committee shall meet monthly. The quorum for Executive Committee meetings shall be 50%+1 of the voting members of the Executive Committee.
- 8.2. The group shall hold general meetings at least twice per year to allow the general membership to review the group's annual activity plan, and financial health, and propose or vote on constitutional amendments.
- 8.3. The Executive Committee must announce the date of a general meeting to the general membership at least two (2) weeks before the date of the meeting.

Article Nine - Termination of Membership

- 9.1. 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.
- 9.2. A vote to revoke membership must be held at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 9.3. A two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee is required to approve any motion to revoke membership.

- 9.4. Any member facing removal shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Executive Committee to the general membership.
- 9.5. In the case of an appeal, a simple majority vote at a general membership meeting shall be required to sustain the revocation of membership.
- 9.6. Following 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.
- 9.7. Executive Committee members are subject to the same termination of membership process as general members.

Article Ten – Amendments

- 10.1. All constitutional amendments shall require a 2/3 majority vote to be passed at a general meeting.
- 10.2. All voting members may propose and vote on amendments to the constitution.
- 10.3. 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.
- 10.4. 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.