

HINDU STUDENTS COUNCIL CONSTITUTION 2023-2024

We, the members, hereby agree to constitute the “Hindu Students Council - University of Toronto Student Chapter” at the University of Toronto, St. George Campus, and agree to abide by the following rules and regulations in order for our purpose to be realized to the fullest extent.

ARTICLE I: Name and Purpose

1.1 The organization shall be officially known as the “Hindu Students Council - University of Toronto Student Chapter”.

1.2 The official acronym of the organization is “HSC”.

1.3.1 HSC is a non-sectarian international forum for the education and promotion of the Hindu cultural and spiritual heritage. University of Toronto students, faculty members, personnel as well as U of T alumni are welcome to join. HSC also provides opportunities for non-academic individuals to work and identify closely with the objectives and programs of HSC.

1.3.2 HSC aims to achieve the following goals:

- Education of Hindu cultural & spiritual heritage, religions, and history
- Promotion of Hindu culture & values
- Building a strong sense of community among Hindu students on campus

1.3.3 HSC promotes understanding and awareness about Hindu heritage amongst Hindu students and students of different cultures and nationalities at University of Toronto.

1.3.4 The mission of HSC is to develop a bond between Hindu students on campus while staying enlightened with the universal ideals of the Hindu Dharma.

1.3.5 HSC is a faith based group; however, HSC honors each member's own religion and membership is entirely independent of religious and cultural beliefs.

1.3.6 All HSC chapters are expected to participate in all the following projects & activities. Currently, Hindu Students Council is taking up the following projects and activities:

- A. Projects to promote Hindu awareness and better understanding of the Hindu Dharma on campus:
 - a. Study Group
 - b. Celebration of Festivals
 - c. Classes, seminars, symposia, lecture tours and Ted Talks.

- B. Activities to encourage the building of a smaller Hindu community within campus:
 - a. Sports Branches of HSC
 - b. Festival Events (Dandiya, Diwali, Holi)
 - c. Dance Team Branch
 - d. Monthly De-stressors

- C. Activities to promote networking amongst the international Hindu students:
 - a. Helping Indian student associations and other Hindu organizations in the community
 - b. Participation in the interfaith organizations on campus
 - c. Conducting opinion polls of students
 - d. Voicing concerns and opinions on the issues that affect students

- D. Community Service Projects:
 - a. Participation in various ongoing service projects of the Hindu Students Council
 - b. Cooperation with the service projects of other community organizations
 - c. Disaster relief fund
 - d. Soup Kitchen for the homeless

ARTICLE II: Membership

2.1 Membership, called "general membership" or "members of the General Body" shall consist of any student, faculty member, U of T alumni or staff of the University of Toronto at all campuses. HSC shall maintain a list of group members.

2.2 All registered students of the University of Toronto are welcome to become members of the group, may become executives, may nominate others to become executives, may vote in elections, and may propose and vote on constitutional amendments. All members shall attend General Body meetings, participate on committees and attend HSC programs.

2.3 Only registered students of the University of Toronto are welcome to become members of the group, may become executives, may nominate others to become executives, may vote in elections, and may propose and vote on constitutional amendments. All members shall attend General Body meetings, participate on committees and attend HSC programs.

2.4 Non-voting membership may be extended to interested staff, faculty, and alumni, or persons from outside the University, without restriction on those grounds outlined by the Ontario Human Rights Code's Prohibited Grounds of Discrimination

2.5 Registered students, Staff, Faculty and alumni who wish to be a member of this group do not have to pay any membership fees.

2.6 Members shall support the policies and activities of HSC; and in general, shall at all times strive to insure the survival and prosperity of the chapter.

ARTICLE III: Rights of Members

3.1 All members may apply for a full refund of their membership fee within one (1) month of becoming a member.

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 referenda.

3.6 All voting members have a right to propose and vote on amendments to this constitution.

3.7 The rights prescribed in Article Three are not awarded to non-voting members as described in Article Two.

ARTICLE IV: The Executive Body.

4.1 The term for all positions on the Executive Committee shall be from May 1st to April 30th.

4.2 The Executive Committee shall be comprised of twelve (12) voting members.

4.3 All voting members of the Executive Committee must be currently registered students of the University of Toronto.

4.4 Non-voting members may hold only non-voting positions on the Executive Committee.

4.5 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.

4.6 Persons holding non-voting positions on the Executive Committee cannot serve as an officer, financial authority, signing authority, primary contact, or secondary contact.

4.7 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.

ARTICLE V: Duties and responsibilities of the Executive Body

5.1 The Executive Body shall:

- A. Be held accountable for HSC membership
- B. Make decisions and policies that reflect the consensus of the HSC membership
- C. Meet at least once a quarter on a day specified at the first meeting of each quarter
- D. Have the option to create and dissemble standing (temporary and special) committees with a consensus or 67% majority vote
- E. Have the responsibility to review the activities of standing committees, ensuring that their duties are being performed
- F. Appoint and/or remove the chairman of standing committees with a consensus or 67% majority votes
- G. Approve all business transactions made by HSC officers

5.2 The President:

- A. Shall preside over general body meetings
- B. Shall have the authority to call emergency executive body meetings
- C. Shall have authority to negotiate business transactions on behalf of HSC after gaining majority votes at Executive meetings
- D. Shall become the chairman of the Executive Body meetings
- E. Shall serve as the liaison with the university administration
- F. Shall hold the signing and financial authority along with the Treasurer,
- G. Shall apply for funding and recognition through University of Toronto Platforms
- H. Shall represent and/or appoint members to the Religious Life, International Students' Council or similar organizational meetings
- I. Shall appoint member(s) in case of resignation by any of the Executive officers. This process will consist of voting among the Executive Body and they will be nominating a new president and voting for his/ her appointment.

5.3 The Vice President:

- A. Shall assume temporary duties of the president in case of temporary absence.
- B. Shall chair in executive body meetings in the absence of the presidents
- C. Shall be liaison between other student organizations.
- D. Shall be responsible for the delegation of tasks among executive members.

5.4 The Secretary:

- A. Shall Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
- B. Shall Maintain a list of group members,
- C. Shall Maintain the group website and member contact list,
- D. Shall Record notes and motions for meetings,
- E. Shall Notify all members of general meetings.

5.5 The Treasurer:

- A. Shall Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
- B. Shall Record all financial transactions of the group,
- C. Shall Hold signing and financial authority along with the President,
- D. Shall Maintain a budget of income and expenses,
- E. Shall Advise members on financial position of the group,
- F. Shall Prepare an annual budget for the group.

5.6 The Director of Promotions:

- A. Shall handle everything related to promotion of the club and different events by designating specific duties.
- B. Shall promote the events on campus and beyond by the means on posters and flyers.
- C. Shall leverage the social media tools to promote the events and spread awareness about the club.
- D. Shall find new and efficient ways to improve promotion techniques, unique to different types of events.
- E. Shall have an assistant helping them in any way required.

5.7 The Director of Sponsorship:

- A. Shall develop and implement a sponsorship strategy to maximize the number of sponsors supporting HSC and generate revenue via cash or other sources.
- B. Shall manage the relationship between HSC and sponsors to ensure that sponsor commitments are achieved and serviced to a high level ensuring retention on a long term basis.
- C. Shall provide support to HSC to ensure the efficient management of club sponsorship activities.
- D. Shall have an assistant helping them in any way required.

5.8 Outreach Liaison:

- A. Shall coordinate duties of the Office
- B. Shall develop a team of volunteers to help organization of events
- C. Shall be responsible for the current roster of all officers of the HSC
- D. Shall submit a summary of all the activities of each quarter to the National office or a representative appointed by it.
- E. Shall be responsible to keep and publish minutes from Executive and General Member meetings.

5.9 Director of Events:

- A. Shall be responsible for managing and assigning tasks to the event planning committee.
- B. Is responsible for ensuring reports are given on time to other executive members regarding event planning and progress.
- C. Shall be responsible for maintaining receipts for expenses occurring during events.
- D. Shall manage bookings for events such as venues, food, DJ, etc.
- E. Communicate with the members of the HSC team and assign responsibilities for event management
- F. Take part in making HSC event decisions.
- G. Shall be responsible for handling ticket sales at events.
- H. Shall be responsible for collecting money from the ticket sales from the members of the executive team.

5.9.1 Event Coordinators:

- I. Shall be responsible for maintaining receipts for expenses occurring during events.
- J. Shall manage bookings for events such as venues, food, DJ, etc.
- K. Communicate with the members of the HSC team and assign responsibilities for event management
- L. Take part in making HSC event decisions.
- M. Shall be responsible for handling ticket sales at events.
- N. Shall be responsible for collecting money from the ticket sales from the members of the executive team.

5.10 Year Representative:

- 1. Shall collect opinions and input from their respective cohorts and report that to the executive committee for review and assessment.
- 2. Shall relay important information regarding events, activities or gatherings to their respective cohorts.
- 3. Shall give important input and communications during meetings and decisions that are representative of their respective cohort.

5.11 Graduate Representative:

- 4. Shall collect opinions and input from their respective cohorts and report that to the executive committee for review and assessment.
- 5. Shall relay important information regarding events, activities or gatherings to their respective cohorts.
- 6. Shall give important input and communications during meetings and decisions that are representative of their respective cohort.

5.12 Social Media Director:

- 1. Shall be responsible for creating all multimedia content for social media platforms as needed by the team.
- 2. Shall gather all information on events beforehand and use information accurately to create content for social media platforms
- 3. Shall manage all social media requests and queries.
- 4. Shall notify the executive board of any rude, inappropriate or indecent content comments, posts or queries that relate to the HSC chapter.
- 5. Shall update social media regularly and remain as an active online presence
- 6. Shall maintain the integrity of the institution.

ARTICLE VI: 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.

6.3 All non-voting group members shall be eligible to seek nomination only for non-voting positions on the Executive Committee.

6.4 Non-voting group 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 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.

ARTICLE VII: 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.

7.5 The group will not have as a major activity a function that makes it an on-campus chapter of a commercial organization.

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 VIII: 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 provide the general membership an opportunity to review the group's annual activity plan, 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 prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE IX: 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 meeting of the general membership shall be required to sustain the revocation of membership.

9.6 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.

9.7 Executive Committee members are subject to the same termination of membership process as general members.

ARTICLE X: 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.