
STRUM CONSTITUTION

The constitution was last revised and updated on May 16th, 2023.

Purpose and Objectives

STRUM seeks to create a welcoming environment where members can come to learn the basics of ukulele playing and/or continue to develop their ability. The main objective is to create appreciation for music education and to provide the enriching experience of learning a new instrument.

Membership and Executive Committee

Membership

Membership to the group is open to all the University of Toronto members (students, staff, faculty and alumni).

Only registered U of T students are permitted to run and vote in elections and constitutional amendments. The group is open to non-U of T members. However, these members do not hold the aforementioned rights. Members must register with a designated executive by submitting their full name and a valid email address.

There will be no membership fees; however, members are recommended to purchase and bring their own instruments to meetings.

Termination of Executives or General Members

Any member (including active and non-member, executives, coordinators, and other affiliated personnel) 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 or neglect of executive duties, may be given notice of removal. The member up for removal shall have the right to defend his/her actions. A vote will be held at an executive meeting, and a majority vote of the current executives present in favour of removal is required. The member will have the right to an appeal before the general membership, and the majority vote of the general membership will determine the result of the appeal. Executive members will lose their executive position along with their membership.

Executive List and Roles

As part of the executive committee, it is mandatory that all executives must attend at least 50% of the events and 90% of the executive meetings as deemed necessary. Responsibilities are not strictly limited to the written role of each position. All executives are to be made aware of the content of the constitution when they are elected or whenever new amendments are made to the constitution. Upon a neglect of executive responsibilities, an executive can be terminated from their executive position along with their membership to the group as according to the Termination of Executives or General Members procedure.

President

The President shall:

- Oversee the operations of the group
- Organize meeting locations and times, arrange room booking
- Plan ukulele related educational material and goals for general meetings
- Hold signing officer authority for financial purposes
- Ensure transition of office to the future Executives
- Communicate with authorities
- Manage the group's email and social media

Vice-President of Internal Affairs

The Vice-President of Internal Affairs shall:

- Assist the President in organizing meeting locations and times and arranging room bookings
- Assist the President in planning materials for general meetings
- Act as President when that person is not available
- Maintains contact list of members

Vice-President of Communications

The Vice-President of Communications shall:

- Be the spokespersons for STRUM
- Assist the President in managing the club's email and social media
- Oversee outreach to potential new members
- Plan social events outside of general meetings for club members
- Oversee the maintenance of the club's website

*Trainers**

The Trainers shall:

- Teach members ukulele techniques, chords, and songs
- Attend all meetings or give at least one (1) week of notice before an absence

*Note: Trainers are not elected members of the executive committee, but they act to facilitate mentorship to general members. It is a volunteer role open to all members, and they are selected based on their proficiency playing the ukulele.

Club Operations and Regulations

Meetings

General meetings will be typically held once a week. Meeting times and location will be announced by email to all members. Weekly meetings will be suspended during examination periods.

Elections

The executive committee shall request nominations for an election committee to be formed from the general members. This may include members in the role of Trainers, as they are not part of the executive committee. A minimum of two members will be selected from the nominees to form the election committee.

The election committee shall conduct and hold an election in March. All members of the election committee shall be non-biased in the results of the election and shall be required to disclose any and all conflicts of interest in the election. These members are prohibited from running in the election once they have been selected and accepted their role in the election committee.

The election committee shall accept applications for executive positions from all active STRUM members currently within the University of Toronto community. Eligibility for presidency is not restricted to past/current STRUM executives, but one (1) year prior experience (one full year of executive term is defined as one Spring Election to the next Spring Election) as a STRUM executive on the day of the Spring Election is preferred. The election committee shall select a date in March for the voting period. The election date will be announced a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the election and must fall on a weekday.

On the day of the election, the candidates will be given the opportunity to give a short speech to the general membership. The election committee shall then provide each registered U of T student member with a paper ballot on the voting dates and ask the member to place their ballot in an enclosed container. Members may abstain from the vote. In preparation for a tie, the election committee shall select a representative from amongst themselves, to cast their ballot. In the event of a tie for an executive position, the extra ballot shall be counted in order to break the tie.

After the election is over, the election committee will count the votes. The candidate with the most votes shall be elected to the position.

Voting members may not vote by proxy and must show up at elections to be eligible to vote.

Term of executive positions shall be from September of one year to September of the next year.

Finances

All resources purchased by club funds will be available for use by all registered members of STRUM. All members can request and vote on new purchases.

STRUM'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.

Amendments

Any members with voting privileges may propose and vote on amendments to this constitution. The Executive Committee will administer the process of having amendments discussed at general meetings. Amendments shall require a majority vote to be passed.

The executive committee shall adopt the new constitution and submit the revised constitution to the respective University offices within three (3) weeks of its approval by general members.