

Constitution of UofT Reads Student Club

UofT Reads Student Club Executive Committee

Revised on July 2024



UofT Reads

Constitution of “UofT Reads Student Club”

1. Article One – Name and Purpose

- 1.1. The official name of the recognized student group is “UofT Reads Student Club” (hereinafter referred to as “the club” or “the group”).
- 1.2. The club’s mission is to cultivate thoughtful discussions and expand our intellectual horizons. We strive to explore a variety of literary genres while fostering a welcoming and considerate community.

2. Article Two – Membership and Membership Fee

- 2.1. The club shall maintain a list of club members.
- 2.2. Voting membership, defined as being able to vote in club elections and other organizational affairs, is open to all registered students of the University of Toronto.
- 2.3. Non-voting membership, defined as suggesting and voting for monthly book choices and other event participation, is open to all registered students of the University of Toronto, as well as University of Toronto staff, faculty, alumni, and individuals from outside the University. Unless otherwise specified, non-voting members do not possess the rights granted to voting members.
- 2.4. There is no membership fee.

3. Article Three – Rights of Members

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

4. Article Four – Accessibility and Non-Discrimination Policy

- 4.1. The club is committed to making events accessible for all members. This includes holding meetings and events in physically accessible locations, offering discounted or free events, and scheduling with flexible meeting times to accommodate members with busy schedules.
- 4.2. The club shall not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, religion, age, gender or sexual identity, mental or physical disability, marital status, economic status, political belief nor education.

5. Article Five - Executive Committee

- 5.1. The term for all positions on the Executive Committee shall be from May 1st to April 30th.
- 5.2. The Executive Committee shall be composed of three (3) voting members as described in Article Two.
- 5.3. 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.
- 5.4. 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.

6. Article Six - Executive Committee Composition and Duties

6.1. The President shall:

- 6.1.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
- 6.1.2. Oversee the operations, management, and success of the group,
- 6.1.3. Serve as spokesperson for the group,
- 6.1.4. Hold signing and financial authority along with the Treasurer,
- 6.1.5. Preside over meetings of the Executive Committee and/or members,
- 6.1.6. Ensure a transition of office from one year to the next.

6.2. The Creative Director shall:

- 6.2.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
- 6.2.2. Manage the club's online presence, including social media platforms, to engage current and potential members,
- 6.2.3. Develop marketing and promotional strategies to increase club visibility and attract new members,
- 6.2.4. Oversee the creation and development of engaging content for UofT Reads meetings, events, and activities,
- 6.2.5. Work closely with the President and other officers to align creative initiatives with the club's goals.

6.3. The Treasurer shall:

- 6.3.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
- 6.3.2. Record all financial transactions of the group,
- 6.3.3. Hold signing and financial authority along with the President,
- 6.3.4. Maintain a budget of income and expenses,
- 6.3.5. Advise members on financial position of the group,
- 6.3.6. Prepare an annual budget for the group.

7. Article Seven – Membership Requirements

- 7.1. To be considered a club member, you must join the club Discord.

7.2. To attain election voting privileges, you must be a member of the club, as stated in Article 7.1. It is also recommended that you attend at least five (5) meetings between May 1 and the beginning of the election nomination period (typically March).

8. Article Eight – Membership Responsibilities

- 8.1. Read the selected book and participate in meetings.
- 8.2. Contribute by bringing items or materials when possible.
- 8.3. Enjoy the discussions and activities, and have fun!

9. Article Nine – Elections

- 9.1. All voting positions on the Executive Committee shall be filled through an annual election.
- 9.2. All voting members shall be eligible to seek nomination to and cast a ballot for each voting position.
- 9.3. The nominee winning the plurality of votes cast in the election for each position shall be deemed the winner.
- 9.4. 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.
- 9.5. The elections must be held in a non-biased manner. No individual who is seeking election may participate in planning or administering the election.
- 9.6. For all unfilled positions, the remaining officers will share the duties and responsibilities until someone can be found to fulfill the positions(s) through a by-election and vote of simple majority (50% + 1).

10. Article Ten – Finances

- 10.1. The Treasurer shall keep an active record of income and expenses.
- 10.2. The Treasurer shall present the group's updates on the group's financial position at annual general meetings.
- 10.3. The Executive Committee must approve all expenditures over \$100.00 through a majority vote at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 10.4. The club may not engage in activities that are essentially commercial in nature.
- 10.5. The club will not have as a major activity a function that makes it an on-campus chapter of a commercial organization.
- 10.6. The club will not provide services and goods at a profit when that profit is used for purposes other than those of the group.
- 10.7. The group will not pay salaries to any of its officers.

11. Article Eleven – Meetings

- 11.1. The Executive Committee shall meet monthly. The quorum for Executive Committee meetings shall be 50%+1 of the voting members of the Executive Committee.
- 11.2. The club shall hold general meetings at least once 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.

- 11.3. 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.

12. Article Twelve - Termination of Membership

- 12.1. 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 or is found in violation of the club policies in Article Four..
- 12.2. A vote to revoke membership must be held at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 12.3. A two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee is required to approve any motion to revoke membership.
- 12.4. Any member facing removal shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Executive Committee to all members, regardless of voting status.
- 12.5. 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.
- 12.6. 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.
- 12.7. Executive Committee members are subject to the same termination of membership process as general members.

13. Article Thirteen – Amendments

- 13.1. All constitutional amendments shall require a two-thirds majority vote to be passed at a general meeting.
- 13.2. All voting members may propose and vote on amendments to the constitution.
- 13.3. 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.
- 13.4. 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.