

## **Constitution of “U of T Food Coalition (Student Chapter)”**

### **1. Article One – Name and Purpose**

- 1.1. The official name of the recognized student group is “U of T Food Coalition (Student Chapter)”
- 1.2. The acronym or abbreviation of this group is: “U of T Food Coalition”
- 1.3. The purpose, objectives, mission and/or mandate of the organization: U of T Food Coalition is a network of students and faculty committed to advancing food justice, supporting local food production, and creating an anti-capitalist food space on campus. Our organization and related projects are rooted in equity, sustainability, and locality. In addition to creating a space for affordable and culturally relevant food on campus, we will also work to foster a community for intersectional and progressive learning in relation to food systems. We believe that by engaging our campus population through principles of food sovereignty and sustainable food practices, we can help co-create a healthy and vibrant student community.

### **2. Article Two – Membership and Membership Fee**

#### 2.1 Voting

- 2.1.1 All members of the UofT Food Coalition have voting privileges.
- 2.1.2 UofT Food Coalition operates on a horizontal power structure: all members that are registered UofT students are executive members for the purposes of voting and decision-making.

#### 2.2 Membership

- 2.2.1 Any registered student from the University of Toronto can join the UofT Coalition-membership fee will be \$0 per year.
- 2.2.2 Membership may be extended to interested students, 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.

### **3. Article Three – Rights of Members**

- 3.1. All voting members 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 – Executive/Steering Committee**

- 4.1. The term for all positions on the Executive Committee shall be from September 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>

- 4.2. The Steering Committee shall be comprised of five (5) voting members.
- 4.3. All voting members of the Steering Committee must be currently registered students of the University of Toronto.
- 4.4. Non-voting members may hold only non-voting positions on the Steering Committee.
- 4.5. Persons holding non-voting positions on the Steering Committee cannot serve as an officer, financial authority, signing authority, primary contact, or secondary contact.
- 4.6. 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.
- 4.7. 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 Steering Committee.

## **5. Article Five - Executive Committee Composition and Duties**

### **5.1. Members of the Steering Committee shall:**

- 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 for the group,
- 5.1.4. Hold signing and financial authority along with the Treasurer,
- 5.1.5. Preside over meetings of the committee and/or members,
- 5.1.6. Ensure a transition of office from one year to the next,
- 5.1.7. Ensure activities of the club comply with policies of the University of Toronto,
- 5.1.8. Coordinate organizational recruitment efforts,
- 5.1.9. Record notes and motions for meetings.

### **5.2. The Treasurer shall:**

- 5.2.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
- 5.2.2. Record all financial transactions of the group,
- 5.2.3. Hold signing and financial authority along with the President,
- 5.2.4. Maintain a budget of income and expenses,
- 5.2.5. Advise members on financial position of the group,
- 5.2.6. Prepare an annual budget for the group.

5.3 At the request of any member, a vote can be held to modify who is in a position of authority. This vote will follow the process for Constitution amendment, as outlined in Article 10.

## **6. Article Six – Elections**

- 6.1. All voting group members shall be eligible to seek nomination to and cast a ballot for each voting position.
- 6.2. All non-voting group members shall be eligible to seek nomination only for non-voting positions on the Steering Committee.
- 6.3. Non-voting group members shall not be eligible to cast a ballot for any elected position.

- 6.4. The nominee winning the plurality of votes cast in the election for each position shall be deemed the winner.
- 6.5. 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.
- 6.6. The elections must be held in a nonbiased manner. No individual who is seeking election may participate in planning or administering the election.
- 6.7. 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)

## **7. 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 Steering 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.

## **8. Article Eight – Meetings**

- 8.1. The Steering Committee shall meet weekly. The quorum for Steering Committee meetings shall be 50%+1 of the voting members of the Steering 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 Steering 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.

## **9. Article Nine - Termination of Membership**

- 9.1. The Steering 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 Steering Committee.
- 9.3. A two-thirds majority of the Steering 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 Steering 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. Steering Committee members are subject to the same termination of membership process as general members.

## **10. 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 Steering 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.