

Constitution of the Multiracial Students' Association

2024

University of Toronto

Article One: Name

1. The official name of the recognized student group shall be the “Multiracial Students’ Association.”
2. The official acronym or abbreviation of the group is “MSA.”

Article Two: Mandate

The MSA is dedicated to the fulfillment of the following mission:

1. To provide a safe, open environment for people of mixed heritage including but not limited to multiethnic, multiracial, and multicultural individuals.
2. To host social events for multiracial students to enrich their university experience.
3. To provide opportunities for multiracial students to enhance and expand their networks.
4. To increase awareness of diverse cultures and traditions among the entire University of Toronto community.

Article Three: Membership and Membership Fee

1. The group shall maintain a list of group members.
2. Voting membership is open to all registered students of the University of Toronto.
3. Voting membership is open only to registered students at the University of Toronto.
4. Non-voting membership is open to University of Toronto staff, faculty, alumni, and to persons from outside the University. Unless otherwise stated, non-voting members do not hold any rights awarded to voting members.
5. The membership fee will be \$0 per year.

Article Four: Rights of Members

1. All voting members have a right to attend all general meetings of members.
2. All voting members have a right to cast votes at all general meetings of members.
3. All voting members have a right to stand for election unless otherwise stated in this document.
4. All voting members have a right to cast votes in all group elections and referenda.
5. All voting members have a right to propose and vote on amendments to this constitution.
6. The rights prescribed in Article Three are not awarded to non-voting members as described in Article Three.

Article Five: Executive Committee

1. The term for all positions on the Executive Committee shall be from May 1st to April 30th.
2. The executive committee shall be composed of 7 voting members.
3. All voting members of the Executive Committee must be currently registered students of the University of Toronto.
4. Non-voting members may hold only non-voting positions on the Executive Committee.
5. The maximum number 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.
6. Persons holding non-voting positions on the Executive Committee cannot serve as an officer, financial authority, signing authority, primary contact, or secondary contact.
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.
8. 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 Six: Roles of the Executive Committee

6.1 The Founder and President shall:

1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
2. Establish the goal and vision of the MSA for the academic year,
3. Oversee the operations, management, and success of the group,
4. Coordinate the work among all executives,
5. Serve as a spokesperson for the group,
6. Maintain proper lines of communication among the executive committee,
7. Hold signing and financial authority,
8. Preside over meetings of the Executive Committee and/or members,
9. Ensure a transition of office from one year to the next.

6.2 The Vice President shall:

1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
2. Assume the duties of the President in their absence,
3. Ensure activities of the club comply with the policies of the University of Toronto,
4. Coordinate organizational recruitment efforts.

6.3 The Director of Administration shall:

1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,

2. Maintain a list of group members,
3. Maintain the group website and member contact list,
4. Record notes and motions for meetings,
5. Notify all members of general meetings.

6.4 The Director of Outreach shall:

1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
2. Work with the Marketing Director to promote the association,
3. Develop partnerships with potential clubs, student associations, and organizations within the University of Toronto,
4. Develop partnerships with potential clubs and organizations outside the University of Toronto community.

6.5 The Director of Events shall:

1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
2. Coordinate potential social events,
3. Articulate ideas for social events,
4. Work with the Director of Finance to set a budget for each event.

6.6 The Director of Finance shall:

1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
2. Record all financial transactions of the group,
3. Maintain a budget of income and expenses,
4. Advise members on the financial position of the group,
5. Prepare an annual budget for the group,
6. Develop partnerships with potential funders and sponsors.

6.7 The Director of Marketing shall:

1. Be responsible for designing the social media pages,
2. Update the social media and website regularly,
3. Work with the Outreach Director to promote the association.

Article Seven: Elections

1. All voting positions on the Executive Committee shall be filled through an annual election.
2. All voting group members shall be eligible to seek nomination to and cast a ballot for each voting position.
3. All non-voting group members shall be eligible to seek nomination only for non-voting positions on the Executive Committee.
4. Non-voting group members shall not be eligible to cast a ballot for any elected position.

5. The nominee winning the plurality of votes cast in the election for each position shall be deemed the winner.
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.
7. The elections must be held in a nonbiased manner. No individual who is seeking election may participate in planning or administering the election.
8. For all unfilled positions, the remaining officers will share the duties and responsibilities until someone can be found to fulfill the position(s) through a by-election and vote of simple majority (50% + 1).

Article Eight: Finances

1. The Director of Finance shall keep an active record of income and expenses.
2. The Director of Finance shall present the group's updates on the group's financial position at annual general meetings.
3. The Executive Committee must approve all expenditures over \$100.00 through a majority vote at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
4. The group may not engage in activities that are essentially commercial in nature.
5. The group will not have as a major activity a function that makes it an on-campus chapter of a commercial organization.
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. The group will not pay salaries to any of its officers.

Article Nine: Meetings

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.
2. The MSA 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.
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 Ten: Termination of Membership

1. The Executive Committee may revoke the membership of any member of the club who commits an act negatively affecting the interests of the MSA and its members, including non-disclosure of a significant or continuing conflict of interest.
2. A vote to revoke membership must be held at a meeting of the Executive Committee.

3. A two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee is required to approve any motion to revoke membership.
4. Any member facing removal shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Executive Committee to the general membership.
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.
6. Following a termination of membership, the member will be removed from the association's membership and will lose any privileges associated with being a member of the association.
7. Executive Committee members are subject to the same termination of membership process as general members.

Article Eleven: Amendments

1. All constitutional amendments shall require a 2/3 majority vote to be passed at a general meeting.
2. All voting members may propose and vote on amendments to the constitution.
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.
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.
5. The Constitution will be reviewed every summer prior to the commencement of the following academic year and before the elections.