

# **Constitution of Revolutionary Communist Party – UTSC Chapter**

Updated as of 2025/05/15

## **Article I: Name and Purpose**

1.1 The official name of the Campus Group will be **Revolutionary Communist Party – UTSC Chapter**

1.2 The campus group may be referred to by the acronym **RCP-UTSC**

1.3 The purpose of the club will be to advance the understanding of socialist and communist theories, literature, and praxis, and promote these ideas to the general student body.

## **Article II: Membership**

2.1 Membership in is open to all students, staff, faculty and alumni of the University of Toronto Scarborough who identifies as a socialist/communist and who regularly attends club meetings (held weekly or bi-weekly).

2.2 The term of membership for the will be from September 1 – August 31 each year.

2.3 Each member shall be afforded the following rights through membership in :

2.3.1 The right to participate and vote in group elections and meetings, the right to stand and be elected for executive positions;

2.3.2 The right to communicate and to discuss and explore all ideas;

2.3.3 The right to organize/engage in activities/events that are reasonable and lawful;

2.3.4 The right to freedom from discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or sexual orientation, ideologies or opinions as long as they do not violate the group constitution and spirit and are not hateful or reactionary ideologies targeting oppressed and vulnerable groups in society

2.3.5 The right to be free from censorship, control, or interference by the University on the basis of the organization's philosophy, beliefs, interests or opinions unless and until these lead to activities which are illegal or which infringe on the rights and freedoms already mentioned above;

2.3.6 The right to distribute on campus, in a responsible way, published material provided that it is not unlawful;

2.4 Each member shall possess the following responsibilities relative to participation in :

2.4.1 Support the purpose of the organization;

2.4.2 Uphold the values of the organization;

2.4.3 Contribute constructively to the programs and activities offered by the organization;

2.4.4 Attend general meetings (known as branches);

2.4.5 Abide by the constitution and subsequent official organizational documents;

2.4.6 Respect the rights of peers and fellow members;

- 2.4.7 Abide by University of Toronto policies, procedures, and guidelines;
- 2.4.8 Abide by the Laws of the Land, including but not limited to the Criminal Code of Canada.
- 2.5 The club will collect a voluntary membership fee from each member each year. This fee will be used as part of the operating budget presented to general members for approval at a valid general meeting.
- 2.6 The club values and respects the personal information of its members. The club always secures its member's information and will not supply names or other confidential information to third-parties.
- 2.7 The club will protect the privacy of member information and must use it only for the delivery of service and not for commercial gain.

### **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 the right to call elections which need to be approved by the rest of voting members.

### **Article IV: Executive Committee**

- 4.1 The executives of the organization shall include the Chair and the Treasurer.
- 4.2 The Executive Committee shall be comprised of 3 voting members.
- 4.3 The executives of the organization shall include the Chair and the Treasurer.
- 4.4 The broad responsibilities of each executive position are as follows:
  - 4.4.1 The Chair (the President) is the official spokesperson of the organization and provides direction for all components of the organization in a manner consistent with the organization's constitution and policies. They are also responsible for running and conducting meetings, and for making meeting agendas
  - 4.4.2 The Treasurer collect dues (voluntary membership fees) each month, and is responsible for funding events, club activities, and other activities decided by the membership
  - 4.4.3 An optional, elected Secretary acts as a note-taker during meetings, or can be made responsible for chairing meetings and performing the role of the Chair when the Chair is absent temporarily. The Secretary role may be elected at any point when the need arise.
- 4.5 Only student members of the organization may hold executive positions.
- 4.6 All positions are elected and are subject to active recall at any moment.

4.7 If any member wants to recall an executive, they may raise this at a general meeting to be voted on and included in the agenda or communicate to the chair for it to be added to the agenda. After the discussion about recall, a majority vote will be taken to decide whether the executive will be recalled. A new election should then be scheduled.

4.8 The executive positions collectively will form a committee that acts as the primary steward of the organization.

4.9 This committee is collectively responsible for the day-to-day decision making of the organization including but not limited to monitoring finances, event planning and execution, member services, and advocating on behalf of members to Administration and student government.

4.10 This committee cannot make amendments to the constitution without the approval of the general membership at a valid general meeting.

4.11 The term of each executive will last from May 1 following their election to April 30 of the following year.

4.12 Any executive of the organization may resign, provided that such resignation is made in writing and delivered to the Chair. Unless any such resignation is, by its terms, effective on a later date, it shall be effective on delivery to the meeting, and no ratification by the organization shall be required to make the resignation official.

4.13 Any vacancy of executives shall be filled by the President or designate of the organization until an election can be held as early as possible

4.14 If the Chair is resigning, they must do so publicly at a general meeting if possible. Unless any such resignation is, by its terms, effective on a later date, it shall be effective on delivery to the executive committee, and no ratification by the organization shall be required to make the resignation official.

4.15 Any vacancy of the Chair shall be filled by the Treasurer or Secretary elected by a simple and clear majority at a general meeting until an official replacement election can be held.

## **Article V: Elections**

5.1 All voting positions on the Executive Committee shall be filled through an election whenever the majority voting members see fit.

5.2 All voting group members shall be eligible to seek nomination to and cast a ballot for each voting position.

5.3 Non-voting group members shall not be eligible to cast a ballot for any elected position.

5.4 The nominee winning the plurality of votes cast in the election for each position shall be deemed the winner.

5.5 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.

5.6 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 new election.

## **Article VI: Termination of Membership**

6.1 The process for removing a member or executive may be initiated when a committee of no less than three (3) non-executive general members and two (2) executives appointed by the general membership to investigate a complaint determines that:

- 6.1.1 A member or executive has engaged in unlawful actions or activities;
  - 6.1.2 A member or executive has violated the constitution;
  - 6.1.3 A member or executive has violated University of Toronto policies, procedures, or guidelines;
  - 6.1.4 A member or executive has violated the rights of a fellow member;
  - 6.1.5 A member or executive has not fulfilled their organizational responsibilities;
  - 6.1.6 Other criteria deemed to be appropriate by the Executive Committee in consultation with and approved by a majority of the general membership.
- 6.2 The process for removing a member or executive may also be initiated when:

- 6.2.1 A petition calling for a vote and bearing the signatures of a majority of the general membership is submitted to any member of the executive.
- 6.2.2 A motion for a removal vote is put forward by any member of the executive and passed by a two-thirds majority vote of the executives. The individual facing potential removal vote is entitled to vote on the motion if they are an executive or be given an opportunity to explain themselves if they are a non-executive general member.

6.3 The removal of members and executives will be facilitated by a three tier procedure which operates as follows:

6.3.1 First Tier: • The executive or member will be warned both verbally and in writing that their behavior constitutes grounds for removal from the organization and that it should cease effective immediately.

6.3.2 Second Tier:

- Initiated because the member or executive has violated section 6.1 after receiving a first tier warning relative to a particular action or behavior.
- The executive will be responsible for contacting the executive or member and facilitating training or suggesting best practices on how to correct the issues of concern.
- The executive or the club must address all complaints in writing by formulating an action plan and timeline to correct any issues involving executives or members within fourteen (14) calendar days.
- The executive or member accused of violating section 6.1 will be given fourteen (14) calendar days from receiving the Chair written response to demonstrate progress or correction of behavior.

6.3.3 Third tier:

- Initiated because the member or executive has violated section 6.1 after receiving second tier warning relative to a particular action or behavior. The removal vote must take place at a valid general meeting of the membership. A representative supporting the motion for removal and the executive or member facing removal (or an individual they designate), may speak for up to five minutes each.
- The removal of an executive or member requires a 2/3 majority vote of all of the members present at a valid general meeting (including executives). The executive or member facing removal is entitled to vote on the motion.

## **Article VII – Amendments**

7.1 The club may make, amend or repeal the constitution or certain sections therein.

7.2 Notice of a meeting called to consider such a resolution shall be given as follows:

7.2.1 Notice of the full text of the proposed constitutional amendment shall be given to each member at least fourteen (7) days prior to the date of the meeting called to consider the change;

7.2.2 A summary of the rationale for the proposed amendment shall be given to each member at least fourteen (7) days prior to the date of the meeting called to consider the change.

7.3 Amendments to the constitution require the approval of a majority of the members present at a valid general meeting (a general meeting that has achieved quorum).

7.4 The general membership must have the final say on amendments to the constitution.

## **Article VIII – Transition**

8.1 All outgoing executives are required to transfer all organizational resources used relative to a particular role over the course of the preceding year to new executives upon leaving the position.

8.2 All outgoing executives are responsible for providing a detailed report to incoming executives that stipulates the status of ongoing projects in their portfolio and evaluations of previous projects and programs that they lead.

8.3 All outgoing and incoming executives will participate in a joint training session occurring no later than the end of May each year to assist with the transition between new executive teams.

## **Article IX – Emergency Powers**

9.1 In the case of extenuating circumstances, the executive shall be afforded the ability to act without direction from the organization's members.

9.2 An extenuating circumstance is defined as any instance that may jeopardize the immediate functioning of the organization including but not limited to: executive vacancies, unexpected cancellations, removal from position, or lack of response from members.

9.3 Emergency powers may only be used for such a period of time as is needed to address an extenuating circumstance.

9.4 General members have the ability to remove emergency powers where appropriate through submission of a signed petition from at least 10% of the entire general membership.