

Constitution of “The University of Toronto Student’s Chapter of the Thomistic Institute”

1. Article One – Name and Purpose

- 1.1. The official name of this recognized campus group is “The University of Toronto Student’s Chapter of the Thomistic Institute.”
- 1.2. The acronym or abbreviation of this group is: TSTI
- 1.3. The purpose of TSTI is to strengthen the intellectual formation of university students and those associated with the University by providing opportunities for the promotion of thought on or adjacent to themes important to the medieval Italian philosopher and theologian Thomas Aquinas as well as those people and ideas who influenced or have been influenced by his thought or those rooted in the Catholic tradition generally via public lectures, and master class seminars, and reading groups for University of Toronto Students. We will also have membership socials. TSTI is a chapter of the Thomistic Institute. This parent organization will help us promote and foster our fund our mission through funding events and lectures through collaboration with the Thomistic Institute.

2. Article Two – Membership and Membership Fees

- 2.1 The group shall maintain a list of group members.
- 2.2 Voting membership is open to all registered students of the University of Toronto.
- 2.3 Voting membership is open only to registered students of the University of Toronto
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 While members should have an open mind to the teachings and values of the Catholic Church, TSTI does not discriminate based on the basis of any minority status.
- 2.5 No membership fee will be charged for either voting or non-voting membership in the University of Toronto Student’s Chapter of the Thomistic Institute.
- 2.6 Membership in our Parent Institution or another University’s Student Chapter does not grant one the right to voting membership or its privileges.

3. Article Three – Rights and Responsibilities 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.
- 3.6 The rights prescribed in Article Three are not awarded to non-voting members as described in Article Two.
- 3.7 Members have the right to freely exchange ideas within lectures, seminars, and book groups provided that a basic level of respect is maintained towards any and all peoples.
- 3.8 Members who feel offended by content of presentations have the right to contact the Executive to address their grievances.
- 3.9 Members must:
 - 3.9.1 Abide by University of Toronto policies, procedures, and guidelines;
 - 3.9.2 Abide by the Laws of the Land, including but not limited to the Criminal Code of Canada.
 - 3.9.3 Have an open mind towards the teachings of the Catholic Church

3.10 Members should respect the values of the organization and our parent institute.

4. Article Four – Executive Committee

4.1 The term for all positions on the Executive Committee shall be from May 1st to April 30th.

4.2 The Executive Committee shall be comprised of at least (3) voting members.

4.3 All voting members of the Executive Committee must be currently registered students of the University of Toronto.

4.4 Non-voting members may hold only non-voting positions on the Executive Committee.

4.5 The maximum amount 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.

4.6 Persons holding non-voting positions on the Executive Committee cannot serve as an officer, financial authority, signing authority, primary contact, or secondary contact.

4.7 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.

4.8: UOTSTI must have at least a President, Vice-President and a Treasurer

4.9: If there are not enough people interested in executive positions in any given year the non-voting position of Secretary can be held simultaneously by the Vice-President, the Secretary, or the Publicist.

4.10: If there are not enough people interested in executive positions in any given year the non-voting position of Publicist can be held simultaneously by any other Executive Member.

4.11: Executive Members shall divide the roles of Event Coordination as seems good amongst them.

4.12: The Executive must be committed to the purpose of TSTI and it's parent organization.

4.13: Executives must have an open mind towards the teaching of the Catholic Church

4:14: Executive Members should upon receiving grievances regards speakers advise the Parent Organization of these grievances.

5. Article Five – Executive Committee Compositions and Duties

5.1 The President 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 Executive Committee and/or members,

5.1.6 Act as primary contact with the parent organization

5.1.6 Be the primary point of contact with the University of Toronto Student's Union and Student Life Officer, Recognized Clubs Organization.

5.1.7 Ensure a transition of office from one year to the next.

5.2 The Vice-President shall:

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

5.2.1 Assume duties of the President in their absence,

5.2.3 Ensure activities of the club comply with policies of the University of Toronto,

5.2.4 Be the primary point of contact with the University of Toronto Student's Union and Student Life Officer, Recognized Clubs Organization.

5.2.5 Act as the secondary point of contact with the parent organization

5.2.6 Coordinate organizational recruitment efforts.

5.3 The Treasurer shall:

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

5.3.2 Record all financial transactions of the group,

5.3.3 Hold signing and financial authority along with the President,

5.3.4 Be the primary point of contact with the parent organization regarding financial matters,

5.3.5 Maintain a budget of income and expenses,

5.3.6 Advise members on financial position of the group,

5.3.7 Prepare an annual budget for the group that distinguishes between funds provided by the parent organization and funds provided by UofT.

5.4 The Secretary shall:

5.4.1 Maintain a list of group members,

5.4.2 Maintain the group website and member contact list,

5.4.3 Record notes and motions for meetings,

5.4.4 Notify all members of general meetings.

5.5 The Publicist shall:

5.5.1 Maintain the clubs presence on the Metaverse, Twitter, and other social media platforms.

5.5.2 Coordinate the promotion of group events with the Executive Committee, and the Membership.

6. Article Six – Elections

6.1 All voting positions on the Executive Committee shall be filled through an annual election.

6.2 The Election shall be held from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm on April 23 each calendar year unless April 23 is a weekday, or the following Monday, if it is a weekend.

6.3 The Executive shall appoint a Voting Member of UOTSTI who is not standing for office to serve as the Chief Returning Officer

6.4. The CRO responsibilities include

6.4.1 Selecting the method of voting,

6.4.2. Contacting UOTSTI membership to inform them of the election at least two weeks in advance.

6.4.3 Collecting and Counting Ballots

6.4.4 Informing the currently elected executive of the results.

6.4.5 If paper ballots are used the CRO must appoint two scrutineers, who are not standing for election themselves, out of the voting membership to assist them in counting the ballots.

6.5 The President shall

6.5.1 Inform the newly elected executive of the results,

6.5.2 Inform the general membership of the results.

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

6.7 All non-voting group members shall be eligible to seek nomination only for non-voting positions on the Executive Committee.

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

6.9 The nominee winning the plurality of votes cast in the election for each position shall

be deemed the winner.

6.10 The elections must be held in a non-biased manner. No individual who is seeking election may participate in planning or administering the election.

7. Article Seven – Finances

7.1 The Treasurer shall keep an active record of income and expenses distinguishing between funds granted by the Parent Organization and funds granted by the University of Toronto.

7.2 The Treasurer shall present the group's updates on the group's financial position at annual general meetings.

7.3 The UOTSTI is non profit in nature and should not charge for our events.

7.4 The Executive Committee must approve all expenditures over \$100.00 not covered by the Parent Organization 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 Executive Committee shall meet monthly. The quorum for Executive Committee meetings shall be 50%+1 of the voting members of the Executive 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 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.

9. Article Nine – Termination of Membership

9.1 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.

9.2 A vote to revoke membership must be held at a meeting of the Executive Committee.

9.3 A two-thirds majority of the Executive 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 Executive 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 Executive 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 Executive 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.

11. Article Eleven –Precedence of University Policies

11.1 TSTI will abide by all pertinent University of Toronto policies, procedures, and guidelines. Where the University's policies, procedures, and guidelines conflict with those of TSTI, the University's policies, procedures, and guidelines will take precedent.

12. Article Twelve –Opinions of Speakers

12.1 The speaker policy required by the Parent Organization shall be respected provided it does not violate Article Eleven.

12.2 With regards to speakers speaking of religious, semi-religious, theological, or philosophical topics the speaker policies of the organizational representation of the speakers religious body in Toronto will be respected provided it does not contradict Article Eleven.

12.2 While our speakers are vetted by our parent organization, the opinions of the speakers may not reflect the opinions of TSTI or the Parent Organization.

12.2 The University of Toronto shall have no liability whatsoever for opinions presented by speakers at TSTI events.

13. Article Thirteen –Legal Liability

The University of Toronto Scarborough does not endorse TSTI beliefs or philosophy nor does it assume legal liability for the group's activities on or off campus.

14. Article Fourteen –Collaboration

14.1 TSTI is open to collaboration with other approved University of Toronto Clubs, Institutes or Chaplaincies

14.2 Per Article Seven Section Three the TSTI will not collaborate on events that have an admission fee or collect any financial remuneration from any collaborative event.

14.3 The Parent Organization should be advised of any potential collaborations.