

Constitution of “International Cantonese Union”



Allen Gao

Phone Number: 778-829-2833

Email: allen.gao@mail.utoronto.ca

1. Name

The official name of this recognized campus group is “International Cantonese Union”

The acronym or abbreviation of this group is: ICU

The logo of this group:



The logo above is designed based on the Chinese abbreviation of the city of Canton, now known as the city of Guangzhou. It is very well known and easy to recognize by many people especially the ones with a Chinese background.

2. Purpose and Objectives

The purpose, objectives, mission and/or mandate of organization is outlined here: The purpose of this student organization shall be to promote the culture of Cantonese to the students with same or different cultural backgrounds.

The history, ritual, and culture of Cantonese are very wide and fascinating. Located between Hong Kong and Mainland China, the Guangdong province has its own unique southern Chinese culture. Our vision is to popularize not only the Cantonese culture, but also the Cantonese language, which is recently suffering suppressed issues by the Chinese government. Last but not least, we want everyone to have fun while understanding and learning more about the prominent Cantonese culture. As a result, we believe forming a unique southern Chinese culture club is demanded and has great potential. Therefore, we want to create a broader community where every Cantonese related student who is interested will not hesitate in joining.

Like a lot of fun and sociable clubs out there, we will try to host events where members could get together and have a chance to meet one another. Some brief but decent ideas would be events such as Cantonese class, hotpot night, condo parties, paint night, semi-formals, club nights, road trips and many more. Also, we will host events based on the Cantonese culture for students to reminisce and make this community their second home. This can also be a good way to promote our Cantonese culture. Some events would be Yum cha, mah-jong night and Cantonese lessons. Prior to parties or other social events, we will host trivia events and games related to the Cantonese culture and language. We will also distribute prizes for students who are most involved and active. This way, students will be more passionate and more involved while having the most fun out of it. Academically, we will host study sessions once a month and a few more when it comes to the exam period. Students with the same subject or course can get together and help each other. We will provide as many aids and help for these students as possible. For example, we can invite senior year students to help out the lower year students. Also, we will introduce our students to some alumni by

holding various networking events. These alumni will not only help them with their studying but also suggest and give information about the work field. This will allow students to have fun and gain opportunities to meet new people while improving their quality in studying at the same time. In the later future, we also hope to hold business conferences and invite successful inspirational speakers from all around the place to share their secrets to success, which will further benefit our members. Hopefully, our members could also meet some of these successful people as well. As we mentioned before, the final goal of our group is not only to promote Cantonese culture, but also to provide and expand our students' network bases in order to build a path for themselves into being successful in the foreseeable future.

3. Membership

Membership to the group is open to all University of Toronto members (students, staff, faculty and alumni).

Only U of T students are permitted to run, nominate, and vote in elections and constitutional amendments. The group is also open to non-U of T members. However, these members do not hold the aforementioned rights. Members must register with a designated executive by submitting their full name and a valid email address.

The membership fee will be \$15 per year.

Any member of the club may apply for a refund within one (1) month of becoming a member. No refunds are permitted 30 days after the election periods.

For recognition by the University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU), the group must maintain a minimum of 30 members, a total of 51% of membership are UTSU members. The group must also maintain recognition from the Office of Student Life. These requirements are subject to change and should be checked with UTSU annually to ensure qualifications are met.

4. Executive List and Duties

The executive committee shall be composed of three (3) elected officers. These include a President, Vice-President(s), and Director(s).

At the direction of the President,, the executive committee may be expanded to include additional members.

The President shall:

- Oversee the operations, management and success of the group
- Be the spokesperson for the group
- Hold signing officer authority along with the Treasurer for financial purposes
- Preside over board meetings as well as general meetings
- Ensure transition of office to the future Executives

Additional responsibilities may include:

- To the best of his/her ability to protect the integrity of the union
- The best of his/her effort to attend all events and meetings

The Vice-President(s) shall:

- Be the principal advisors to the President
- Oversee the various committees
- Ensure that all the activities of the club meet regulations and policies of the University of Toronto
- Coordinate organizational recruitment efforts

Additional responsibilities may include:

- In the rare event of the President cannot fulfill his/her duties, the vice president may also be appointed by the President to fill a vacancy
- Be the secondary contact of the club
- Provide insight and direction for further expansion

The Administrator shall:

- Make a list of all registered members
- Maintain the web sites and member contact list
- Record notes and motions for meetings
- Notify all members of meetings
- Handle official correspondence of the organization

The Director(s) shall:

- Be the representative of each department
- Establish and maintain relationship with other student clubs and sponsors
- Plan, organize and oversee all the events
- Advise members on financial position of the group
- Prepare an annual budget for the group as well as budgets for specific events
- Draft sponsorship proposal
- Assist the president and Vice-presidents with club matters

Additional responsibilities may include:

- Be responsible for producing promotional videos, posters and booklets
- Coordinate organizational recruitment efforts

The group may appoint Directors or Coordinators for various committees such as social committee, publicity committee, and so on; however, such positions do not hold executive decision making authority.

Termination of Executives or General Members:

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, may be given notice of removal.

The member up for removal shall have the right to defend his/her actions.

A two-thirds majority vote of the current members present in favor of removal is required.

The member will be removed from the club's membership and will lose any privileges associated with being a member of the club.

Executive members are subject to the same termination or impeachment process and, as determined by the vote, may lose their executive position along with their membership to the group.

5. Elections

The executive committee shall strike the Elections Committee and appoint one (1) Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and two (2) Scrutinizers from the general members of the committee to conduct and hold elections in March. All members of the Elections Committee shall be unbiased in the results of the election and shall be required to disclose any and all conflicts of interest in the election.

The CRO Returning Officer shall accept nominations only from group members that are also registered U of T members (staff, faculty, students and alumni) for candidacy of executive positions from the general membership before the beginning of March. However, only registered U of T students can be executive members with voting privileges. Other registered U of T members (staff, faculty, and alumni) may hold non-voting executive positions, but these non-voting executive positions should be limited to a maximum of 10 percent (10%) of the full executive body. Also, persons who hold these non-voting executive positions should not serve as an officer or contact person in this group. Candidates have to be members in good standing and be part of the group for at least one month prior to the nomination period.

The CRO shall select three (3) election dates before March 30th for the voting period. These dates will be announced in a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to elections dates and must fall on weekdays.

The CRO and Scrutinizers shall provide each registered U of T students with a paper ballot on the voting dates and ask the members to place their ballot in an enclosed box.

In preparation for a tie, the CRO shall select an executive from amongst the executive committee, to cast their ballot and seal it in an envelope. In the event of a tie for an executive position, one of the two Scrutinizers shall break the seal and count the ballot in order to break the tie.

After the election is over, the CRO and Scrutinizers shall count the ballots. The candidate with the most votes shall be elected to the position. The CRO and Scrutinizers shall submit a report of the results of the elections to the Executive Committee and general members.

Registered U of T students may not vote by proxy. Other U of T members (staff, faculty, students and alumni) and non-U of T members may not nominate or vote in elections.

Only U of T students who have paid any applicable membership fees and have been a member in good standing for 30 days prior to election dates are eligible for voting.

Terms of executive positions shall be from May 1st to April 30th.

6. Finances

The Treasurer (who provides monthly income statements for the organization and budget in the beginning of the year) shall keep records of all income and expenses. The Treasurer shall present the group's financial health at the annual general meetings. The Executive Committee will vote on expenditures of over \$100.00 by majority vote at an executive meeting.

The group's executive or members may not engage in activities that are essentially commercial in nature. This is not intended to preclude the collection of membership fees to cover the expenses of

the group, or of charges for specific activities, programs or events, or to prohibit groups from engaging in legitimate fundraising. However, the group will not have as a major activity a function that makes it an on-campus part of a commercial organization, will not provide services and goods at a profit when that profit is used for purposes other than those of the organization, and will not pay salaries to some or all of its officers.

7. Meetings

A) Annual General Meetings (AGMs):

The group shall hold general meetings at least twice per year, i.e. once per academic term.

The Executive Committee will announce these dates two (2) weeks prior to holding the meetings. These meetings are intended to go over the group's annual activity plan, financial health and propose or vote on constitutional amendments, if any. Motions will require 2/3 of majority of registered members in attendance for a vote to be cast. The motion with the most votes will be passed.

b) Executive Meetings:

The executive committee shall meet on a monthly basis where date and times are to be set by an executive. The quorum of executive meetings shall be 50%+1 of executives.

8. Amendments

Any registered U of T members may propose and vote on amendments to this constitution. The Executive Committee will administer the process of having amendments discussed at general meetings.

Constitutional amendments shall require a 2/3 majority to be passed at Annual General Meetings by registered U of T members in attendance.

The Executive Committee shall formally adopt the new constitution and submit the revised constitution to the respective University offices (i.e. The Office of Student Life, The University of Toronto Students' Union, etc) within two (2) weeks of its approval by general members.