



WGSSU Constitution

Women and Gender Studies Student Union - University of Toronto

Article 1: Name

- The name of this association shall be the “Women and Gender Studies Student Union”, hereafter referred to as the “WGSSU”

Article 2: Membership

- Membership in the WGSSU shall be open to all students registered in at least one undergraduate course (core, group A or group B courses) in the Women and Gender Studies program who are members of ASSU
- Membership in the WGSSU shall be open to all students enrolled in a program (specialist, combined specialist, major or minor) offered by the Women and Gender Studies Program

Article 3: Objectives

- To promote non-hierarchical education and awareness of women’s and gender (in)justice issues, locally and globally
- To actively recognize and include the concerns of all marginalized and diverse groups, and work towards a fully egalitarian and inclusive environment
- To encourage and promote a sense of community, understanding and support among professors and undergraduate students of the Women and Gender Studies program, and to provide a safe, comfortable meeting space for social gathering and discussion
- To provide a voice and resources for our membership, individually and as a collective
- To promote feminist political activism among the student body and create links with feminist and/or community groups within the community
- To represent the members of the WGSSU on the Council of Art and Science Students' Union (ASSU) and on the departmental community
- To organize events which reflect the needs and wishes of the membership, and to encourage participation and involvement in the organization of these events
- To collaborate with graduate students of the Women and Gender Studies program on relevant information and events



Article 4: Executive Members

- The Executive Members of the WGSSU shall be the following:
 - 1) President (1 position)
 - 2) Vice-President (1 position)
 - 3) Treasurer (1 position)
 - 4) Secretary (1 position)
 - 5) Class Representatives:
 - a) First Year Representative (1 position)
 - b) Second Year Representative (1 position)
 - c) Third Year Representative (1 position)
 - d) Fourth Year Representative (1 position)
 - 6) Events Manager(s) (2 positions)
 - 7) Communications Director (1 position)
 - 8) Academic Liaison + ASSU Representative (1 position)
 - 9) Webmaster (1 position)
- All Executive Members shall be elected annually for a term of one year either after the Fall or Winter elections

Article 5: Official Executive Members and Positions

- President:
 1. Act as a principal liaison between the WGSSU and the Women and Gender Studies Department as well as ASSU
 2. Act as the main signing officer of the WGSSU
 3. Leads the Executive team and members, informs executive of their responsibilities, delegates work and take initiative in organizing events
 4. Conducts the elections for the Winter & Fall terms as well as any byelections with the help of executive members who are NOT re-running
- Vice President:
 1. Assists all other members of the executive in planning and conducting events
 2. Assumes President's duties in their absence
 3. Works closely with the President to organize the affairs and events of the WGSSU
 4. Will act as the second signing officer of the WGSSU if possible
 5. Liaison between other women's groups on campus and off
- Treasurer:
 1. Connects with other executive members to prepare budget proposals



2. Collects receipts and submits them to ASSU as required
 3. Administers the bank account of the WGSSU
 4. Is a liaison with ASSU for meetings related to finance
 5. Can also be the signing officer for the WGSSU bank account if Vice President is unable to be one
- Secretary
 1. Prepares agendas for each meeting, consulting the President
 2. Takes meeting minutes and will distribute to Executive
 3. Books rooms and handles administrative logistics for WGSSU events
 4. Helps with administrative related duties communicated by the President
 - Class Representatives
 1. Is the chief liaison between year-specific undergraduate Women and Gender Studies students and the Executive committee
 2. Promotes and advocates for the needs of year-specific students to the WGSSU and the Women and Gender Studies Program
 3. Helps out with events that may be of interest to year-specific students
 - Events Manager
 1. Handles most of the details of an event, including planning and execution
 2. Works in conjunction with other executive members to ensure their events run smoothly
 3. Creates term long planning for events in accordance with ASSU rules and budget and works with Treasurer to predict event expenditures
 - Communications Director
 1. Maintains the WGSSU's social media channels as well as relays information for promotion of events to WGSI in a timely manner
 2. Ensures that general members and students are able to access information, events, and news related to the WGSSU
 - Academic Liaison + ASSU Representative
 1. Liaison between the executive team and the ASSU
 2. Attends ASSU meetings and represents WGSSU by filling one council seat
 3. Coordinates 1 academic seminar per semester with a WGSI Faculty member
 - Webmaster
 1. Maintains the WGSSU course website
 2. Ensures that general members and students are able to access information, events, and news related to the WGSSU on the WGSSU website



Article 6: General Meetings

- General meetings shall be held at least once per semester
- General meetings should ideally be held in the beginning of the term in conjunction with the election period where candidates who are running can be given a forum to speak and campaign
- Executive meetings may be called when necessary
- General meetings must be held when any constitutional amendments are proposed

Article 7: Constitutional Amendments

- Amendments to the Constitution shall be made on the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting at general meetings
- Any amendments to the constitution shall come into effect immediately following general meetings at which they are adopted

Article 8: WGSSU Constitution

- Where this constitution shall be in conflict with any provisions of the ASSU Constitution, the latter shall take precedence

Article 9: Elections

- Elections for the WGSSU must be held in the Fall and Winter terms
- The previous administration should elect a new administration in the Winter term ideally beginning elections in March and completing them in early April before or on the last day of classes according to the Arts & Science Academic Calendar
- If any positions are left vacant, the new administration should then hold elections in the Fall ideally beginning in September for the available positions
- If any position is equally tied in the elections, a by-election must be run to determine who will fill the position
 - If the President role ties in the election, a by-election does not need to be conducted. Co-Presidents are permitted
- If a tie persists in the by-election, candidates may assume co-executive status
- If after the Fall elections, positions remain vacant, the Executive team may appoint WGS students to the roles
- If the President is re-running for elections in the Winter, they are ineligible to conduct the Winter elections and the Vice-President may conduct them



- If the Vice-President is also re-running, then other members of the Executive team who are not re-running should be asked to conduct the elections
- If no one is able to conduct the elections, the President must inform and liaise with the ASSU for support