

# Constitution of “University of Toronto Cybersecurity Student Association”

## 1. Name

The official name of this recognized student group is “University of Toronto Cybersecurity Student Association”

The acronym or abbreviation of this group is: CSSA

## 2. Purpose and Objectives

The purpose, objectives, mission and/or mandate of organization is outlined here:

The University of Toronto Cybersecurity Student Association is a student-run association that aims to develop and promote cybersecurity awareness by bringing students of similar interest together with cybersecurity resources and events to advance their knowledge in the discipline.

The association aims to achieve this mission by:

- Running Workshops and Meetings
- Organizing community outreach program
- Invite industry professionals and guest speakers from the cybersecurity field
- Participate in Cybersecurity-related conferences
- Providing Cybersecurity Resources and Material

## 3. Membership

Executive members with voting privileges shall be currently registered students of the University of Toronto.

Staff, faculty, or alumni members may hold non-voting executive positions. These nonvoting executive positions shall be limited to a maximum of one (1) or ten percent (10%) of the full executive body, whichever is greatest. Persons holding these nonvoting executive positions cannot serve as an officer (including financial signing officer) or contact person of the Student Group.

Non-voting membership may be extended to interested staff, faculty, and alumni, or persons from outside the University, without restriction on those grounds outlined by the Ontario Human Rights Code’s Prohibited Grounds of Discrimination. 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 **\$0.00** per year.

Any member of the association 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 comprised of at least three (3) elected officers. These include a President, Vice President Internal Affairs, and Finance Director.

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 Financial Director for financial purposes
- Preside over board meetings as well as general meetings
- Ensure transition of office to the future Executives
- Coordinate organizational recruitment efforts
- Handle official correspondence of the organization
- Oversee the various committees
- Find new opportunities to expand CSSA outreach in the community
- Build relationships with professional companies and organizations

The Vice President Internal Affairs shall:

- Assume duties of the President in their absence
- Ensure that all the activities of the association meet regulations and policies of the University of Toronto
- Record notes and motions for meetings
- Make a list of all registered members
- Work alongside the President in organizing events on all logistical aspects
- Maintain Ulife recognition

The Finance Director shall:

- Record all financial transactions of the group
- Hold signing officer authority along with the President for financial purposes
- Maintain a budget of income and expenses along with receipts
- Advise members on financial position of the group
- Prepare an annual budget for the group as well as budgets for specific events

The organization will appoint at least four (4) officers as part of the organization's head committee but will not serve as full members of the Executive Committee. The officers include a Creative Director, Social Media Director, Content Lead, and Webmaster. The number of appointed officers for each position may change based on what the Executive Committee deems fit for their upcoming year.

## **Termination of Executives or General Members:**

Any member of the association who commits an act negatively affecting the interests of the association 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 their actions. A vote will be held at an executive meeting, and a two-thirds majority vote of the current executives present in favor of removal is required. The member must have the right to an appeal before the general membership, and the majority vote of the general membership will have the final say on the matter.

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

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 May. 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 shall accept nominations only from group members that are registered U of T students for voting positions, and staff, faculty, or alumni members for voting executive positions from the general membership before the beginning of March. 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 an election date before May 31<sup>th</sup> for the voting period. These dates will be announced in a minimum of three (3) weeks prior to elections dates and must fall on weekdays.

Candidates must submit a statement on their intent to run, which will be released two (2) weeks prior to the election.

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

In preparation for a tie, the CRO shall select a U of T registered student 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 election process may be held online if the executive team deems it to be more accessible to the voting body. The CRO and Scrutinizers shall provide instruction to each voting U of T registered student with an email, detailing the voting dates and instructions.

Online voting shall be done through an online form, such as Google Forms or Microsoft Forms. The form should be created by the CRO, such that votes cannot be tampered by others. To ensure the integrity of the votes casted, only voting entries with the voter's full name, student number, and U of T email are counted. If multiple votes are casted by a voter, only the first vote is counted.

In preparation for a tie, the CRO shall select a U of T registered student executive from amongst the executive committee, to cast their vote in a separate voting form also created by the CRO. In the event of a tie for an executive position, one of the two Scrutinizers shall reveal the vote in order to break the tie.

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. Non-registered students may not nominate or vote in elections.

Only registered U of T students who have been a member in good standing for 30 days prior to election dates are eligible for voting.

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

## **6. Finances**

The Finance Director shall keep records of all income and expenses. The Finance Director shall present the group's financial health at the annual general meetings. The Executive Committee will vote on expenditures of over \$100.00 (CAD) by majority vote at an executive meeting.

All financial decisions (outgoing purchases and incoming funds) will need to be kept track of. A receipt must be submitted to the Finance Director within a week (7 days) of the transaction.

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 once per year, i.e. once per academic year.

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 majority of registered members in attendance for a vote to be cast. The motion with the most votes will be passed. Meeting minutes will be taken by the Vice President, and made available online within two (2) weeks.

### **b) Executive Meetings:**

The executive committee shall meet at least 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. In the case of a tie, the President will be accorded an additional vote to break the tie.

## **8. Amendments**

Any registered U of T students 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.

