

The U of T Undergraduate Society of American Studies (USAS)

Article 1 (Name): The Undergraduate Society of American Studies (USAS)

Article 2 (Purpose):

- a) The USAS is a student association whose purpose is to provide a resource for students in the American Studies program of study by:
 - i) Promoting the exchange of dialogue between students and faculty through information days, recruitment events, and academic gatherings
 - ii) Creating a stronger sense of community for American Studies students at U of T through organizing social events and programming

Article 3 (Membership):

- a) Membership in the USAS is open to any full-time undergraduate student who is registered in the American Studies major or minor options or who is enrolled in at least one (1) 0.5 credit AMS course in the program.
- b) There are no membership fees associated with joining the USAS.
- c) Each member receives, if desired, up-to-date information via the mailing list of the CSUS website.

Article 4 (Executive):

- a) The Executive shall consist of a President, two (2) Vice-Presidents (one (1) Academic and one (1) Social), a Treasurer, a Secretary, a Student Liaison, and a Communications Officer.
- b) All members are equal regardless of their sex, age, religion, gender identity, and place of origin. Moreover, any member is invited to participate directly or indirectly in the activities of the club.
- c) The executive is elected at a general meeting in March or April of the preceding academic year. Any members of USAS may be candidates for election to the executive.

Article 5 (Executive Composition and Duties):

- d) The President shall:
 - i) Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
 - ii) Attend all Arts & Science Students Union (ASSU) meetings unless replaced by a proxy,
 - iii) Oversee the operations, management, and success of the group,
 - iv) Serve as spokesperson for the group,
 - v) Hold signing and financial authority along with the Treasurer,
 - vi) Organize and preside over meetings of the Executive Committee and/or members,
 - vii) Oversee elections and ensure a transition of office from one year to the next.

- e) The Vice-President Academic shall:
 - i) Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
 - ii) Attend at least one (1) Arts & Science Students Union (ASSU) meeting,
 - iii) Organize and carry out at least one (1) academic event per semester,
 - iv) Put together required information to advertise events and provide to the Communications Officer to publish on relevant platforms at least one (1) week prior to the event.
- f) The Vice-President Social shall:
 - i) Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
 - ii) Attend at least one (1) Arts & Science Students Union (ASSU) meeting,
 - iii) Organize and carry out at least one (1) social event per semester,
 - iv) Put together required information to advertise events and provide to the Communications Officer to publish on relevant platforms at least one (1) week prior to the event.
- g) The Treasurer shall:
 - i) Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
 - ii) Attend at least one (1) Arts & Science Students Union (ASSU) meeting,
 - iii) Hold signing and financial authority along with the President,
 - iv) Record all financial transactions for the group,
 - v) Maintain a budget of incomes and expenses,
 - vi) Advise members on financial position of the group,
 - vii) Prepare an annual budget for the group.
- h) The Secretary shall:
 - i) Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
 - ii) Attend at least one (1) Arts & Science Students Union (ASSU) meeting,
 - iii) Keep a record of each meeting,
 - iv) Book space for events and meetings.
- i) The Student Liaison shall:
 - i) Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
 - ii) Attend at least one (1) Arts & Science Students Union (ASSU) meeting,
 - iii) Manage student outreach and recruitment,
 - iv) Communicate with other course unions and student groups on campus about potential future collaborations.
- j) The Communications Officer shall:
 - i) Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
 - ii) Attend at least one (1) Arts & Science Students Union (ASSU) meeting,
 - iii) Create a social media presence for the group on Instagram and all other relevant platforms as determined by the group,
 - iv) Upkeep all social media pages and be responsible for advertising events held by the group,

- v) Answer any questions that are sent to the social media pages,
- vi) Notify members of any suggestions made by the public through social media that may be beneficial to the group.

Article 6 (Funding):

- a) The USAS receives funding from the Arts and Science Students Union (ASSU) and has the potential to receive funding from the Centre for the Study of the United States (CSUS).
- b) The USAS periodically will use fundraising to supplement the support it receives from ASSU.
- c) The Treasurer and the President will be signing officers on the bank account.

Article 6 (Meetings):

Executive meetings are held monthly, with a general meeting at the beginning of each academic semester.

Article 7 (Elections):

The election of the executive will be held in the preceding April of each academic year. The elections are democratic, with the requirement of a majority to win. Elections shall be presided over by the incumbent President. In the event there are vacancies, there will be an election within the academic year to fill remaining seats on the executive.

Article 8 (Amendments):

Any amendments or changes to the constitution must be submitted in written form and will be voted upon by the members of USAS at the next general meeting. All amendment applications must be submitted at least two (2) weeks prior to a general meeting. Successful amendments must pass by a two-thirds majority vote.

Article 9 (Impeachment or Termination):

Membership in USAS, including the executive, can be revoked due to complaints by the members of USAS, provided that the accused has an opportunity to provide a defense at the first instance of voting. Moreover, the member in question has the right to appeal any decision of the first instance to the USAS general membership. The general membership of USAS casts the deciding vote. In the event of a vacancy, an executive appointment is permitted, but it only valid once ratified by the general membership (members of USAS). A bi-election must be held to fill this vacancy although an appointment is fine in the interim period before the bi-election. All members of USAS are eligible to vote in the byelections.

Connections with Other Student Unions:

The European Studies Students' Association also enjoys the support of the CSUS. In the past, USAS has enjoyed collaborations with the History Students' Association and the Toronto Undergraduate Geography Society.