

Constitution of “MIRAS”

November 21, 2023

1. **Official Name:**

The official name of this recognized campus group is “Muslim Iranian Association”. The acronym of this group is ”MIRAS”.

2. **Purpose and Objectives**

MIRAS envisions a community where members have a profound understanding of the teachings of the Holy Qur’an.

In pursuit of our vision, the group is dedicated to achieving the following objectives:

- Providing members with diverse interpretations of the Qur’an and addressing related subjects through engaging weekly presentations.
- Elevating members’ ability for thoughtful discourse and enhancing their skills in religious dialogue through interactive discussion sessions.
- Establishing a vibrant and inclusive community by organizing enjoyable Persian/Islamic social events.

3. **Membership**

- Membership to the group is open to all the University of Toronto members (students, staff, faculty and alumni). U of T members are permitted to run, nominate, and vote in elections and constitutional amendments.
- Voting membership must open only to registered students of the University of Toronto.
- All voting members of the Executive Committee must be currently registered students of the University of Toronto.
- 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.
- Members need to renew their membership once (or twice a year) to be considered a MIRAS member and receive voting rights.
- A member can be expelled with 2/3 of the votes of active members.

4. Executive List and Duties

The MIRAS executive committee shall be comprised of four (4) elected officers. These include a President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Social Coordinator.

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.
- Ensure transition of office to the future Executives.
- Ensure that all the activities of the group meet regulations and policies of the University of Toronto.

The Treasurer shall:

- Record all financial transactions of the group.
- Present the budget, financial status and/or history of transactions to the executive council as deemed necessary by the council.
- Hold signing officer authority along with the President for financial purposes.
- Prepare an annual budget for the group as well as budgets for specific events.

The Secretary shall:

- Organize weekly/general meetings of the group and notify all members.
- Maintain the member contact list.
- Record notes and motions for meetings.

The Social Coordinator shall:

- Organize social events of the group and notify all members.

Executive Rules

- Any major decision which affects the state of the group should be discussed with the general members. A majority vote is required for the approval of the decision.
- An executive who commits an act negatively affecting the interests of the group and its members, could be discharged. The executive should have the right to defend his/her actions. A two-thirds majority vote of the members in favour of removal is required.

- Executives may hold more than one position at the same time, except for the President and the Treasurer.

5. Elections

The executive committee shall appoint one (1) Chief Returning Officer (CRO) from the general members to conduct and hold elections in September. The CRO can appoint other general members, with the approval of the executive committee, to assist him/her in running the election. All members of the election committee shall be non-biased in the results of the election and shall be required to disclose any and all conflicts of interest in the election.

Candidates have to be U of T members and part of MIRAS for at least one month prior to the nomination period.

The election committee shall select an election date and announce it in a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the date. Only U of T members who have been a member in good standing for one (1) month prior to the election date are eligible for voting. The committee shall provide each U of T member with a paper ballot on the voting date. After the election is over, the committee shall count the ballots. The candidate with the most votes shall be elected to the position.

6. Finances

The Treasurer shall keep records of all income and expenses. The Treasurer shall present the group's financial health at the annual general meetings.

The group's executive or members do not engage in activities that are essentially commercial in nature. 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

- Monthly Meetings:

The group holds general meetings once per month. The Executive Committee will announce the date one (1) week prior to holding the meeting. The group's overall activity plan, financial health, and propose or vote on constitutional amendments, if needed.

- Weekly Regular Meetings:

The group holds weekly presentations and/or open discussion meetings. Agenda for the meeting is announced by the Secretary along with the meeting time and location at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

- * Regular meetings will happen weekly on Friday evenings. The topic of the meeting should be related to the first objective of the group by default. An event that does not contribute to the first objective and is going to take place on a Friday session (e.g. professional development event) needs to be approved by the executive team.

- * Any member of MIRAS can volunteer for weekly presentations and propose a topic.
- * If a member of the executive team deems a proposed topic inappropriate or unrelated to the objectives of the group they can call for a special meeting to discuss and then vote on the topic. A majority of votes (half plus one) is required for a topic to be approved.
- * The Official language of all the meetings is Farsi.

8. **Amendments**

Any registered U of T member 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.