

# Constitution of “The Bhakti Yoga Club”

## 1. Name

The official name of this recognized campus group is “The Bhakti Yoga Club”

The acronym or abbreviation of this group is: BYC

## 2. Purpose and Objectives

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

- a) The Bhakti Yoga Club is a club for the students, faculty and alumni from any full-time or part-time academic program at the University of Toronto — St. George (UTSG), Mississauga (UTM), and Scarborough (UTSC) — campuses, all henceforth represented as the “University of Toronto” or “UofT”.
- b) To represent the interests of like-minded members at the University of Toronto with an interest in exploring and understanding the science of Bhakti Yoga.
- c) Promote the importance of spirituality to discern reality from illusion, spirit from matter and the eternal from temporary.
- d) This will be achieved through seminars, meditation and outreach programs.

The purpose and mission of the BYC are elucidated further in the “Mission Statement” document.

## 3. Membership

Membership to The Bhakti Yoga Club is open to all the University of Toronto members (students, staff, faculty and alumni).

UofT members are permitted to run, nominate, and vote in elections and constitutional amendments. The group is open to non-UofT 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 \$0 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 period.

#### 4. Executive List and Duties

The executive committee shall be composed of 3 elected officers. These include the President, Director of Communications, and Director of Finance.

- President: The president is the head of the BYC, and chairs all meetings of either the Executive Committee or of the BYC in general. The president is also responsible for BYC representation to other UofT groups. The president works with the executive committee to set the goals and direct the activity of the club. The term of the President shall be for one full year, to be elected according to the procedures in **Elections**.
- Director of Communications: Represents the BYC to the community outside of UofT through inter-scholastic and community activities. The Director of Communications serves as the chronicler of club meetings and activities, prepares agendas and records minutes for each club meeting, maintains the website and keeps current members' contact information. The term of Director of Communications shall be for one full year, to be elected according to the procedures in **Elections**.
- Director of Finance: Responsible for ensuring the funds of the BYC are put to best use and properly accounted for. The Director of Finance prepares and maintains a detailed budget, compiles funding requests, oversees the use of BYC funds, keeps detailed and accurate records of all transactions, represents the BYC's financial interests to the university in general. The Director of Finance oversees the procurement of all goods and services for use by the BYC. The term of Director of Finance shall be for one full year, to be elected according to the procedures in **Elections**.

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 their actions. A two-thirds majority vote of the current members present in favour 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 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 in 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 UofT members (staff, faculty, students and alumni) for candidacy of 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 three (3) election dates before March 30<sup>th</sup> 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 UofT member with a paper ballot on the voting dates and ask the member 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 UofT members may not vote by proxy. Non-UofT members may not nominate or vote in elections.
- Only UofT members 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 Director of Finance shall keep records of all income and expenses. The Director of Finance 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**

### Annual General Meetings (AGMs):

- Executive Meetings shall be held no less than two (2) times per academic year. Meetings may be called within 48 hours by any of the executives
- Meetings shall be chaired by the President, or another voting member of the Executive appointed by the President
- Over one half (50%) of the voting members are required for quorum. If quorum is not met, the meeting can continue for information purposes, but no motions can be carried until quorum is achieved or another meeting is called

### 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 UofT 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 UofT 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.