

## **Constitution of “University of Toronto Spiritual-Adversarial-Pagan Students’ Association”**

### **Article 1 - Name**

1. The official name of this recognized campus group is “University of Toronto Spiritual-Adversarial-Pagan Students’ Association.”
2. The acronym or abbreviation of this group is: UTSAP. UTSAP will be referred to throughout the constitution as “club” or “group.”

### **Article 2 - Purpose and Objectives**

1. The University of Toronto Spiritual, Adversarial, and Pagan Students’ Association (UTSAP) is a membership organization for U of T students, staff, alumni, and faculty who practice pagan and/or spiritual traditions and/or follow adversarial philosophies. UTSAP strives to be a safe space for pagan, spiritual adversarial students, and their allies by supporting their spiritual needs through their academic journey.
2. UTSAP is non-denominational, inclusive of all self-defined spiritual paths, pagan paths, diverse traditions and practices focused on earth-based faiths, including folk, polytheistic, nature-based, and ancestral traditions, of all self-defined members of adversarial philosophies and religions, such as Satanists and Luciferians, and of all practitioners of occultism and mysticism.
3. UTSAP also has the mission to engage and educate the community about the wide array of pagan, spiritual, and adversarial philosophies and to promote inter-faith learning and cooperation. UTSAP strives to meet individuals who wish to learn about pagan, spiritual, and adversarial philosophies, and traditions, encouraging them to join UTSAP membership and/or its events. UTSAP seeks to consider all voices, spiritual or not, in the larger conversation of inter-religious dialogue.
4. UTSAP recognizes that the term pagan has different meanings in different contexts, including contexts in which it is used as a pejorative term. We reclaim pagan as an umbrella term for a wide array of religious, spiritual, and philosophical traditions. Many of these paths existed for millennia and continue to exist in many contexts, growing out of continuous tradition as well as through the re-establishment of spiritual paths that were actively suppressed through various waves of colonization and enforced conversion to other religious traditions. These traditions survived intact in some places, in others became encoded in stories, folk customs and cultural practices, or were preserved through syncretism with other religious traditions. Different pagan groups draw inspiration from different sources, but reverence for the earth, the cycles of the natural world, respect for living beings, honouring ancestors and/or community, and the principles of non-harm and respect for diversity are common threads amongst practitioners. Hence, our group strives to be ecologically responsible with our actions to save energy, reduce unnecessary waste, and live in harmony with nature.
5. UTSAP uses the term “adversarial” as an umbrella term to acknowledge Satanism, Luciferianism, Lilith reverence, Baphomet reverence, and other religions and philosophies based on demonized religious figures/the infernal pantheon. We acknowledge both theistic and atheistic adversaries. These beliefs are a direct, oppositional response to the major religion it is based off, and thus can provide a theology. Broadly, these ideologies advocate for the celebration of human nature and ego, the push for responsibility, the acceptance of pleasure, shunning of guilt, and retributive justice through writings made by authors considered philosophical adversaries of major world religions. Contemporary Adversaries reflect on the pejorative aspect of the term “Satanist”, which was applied to perceived theological “enemies” of the Abrahamic faith. We reclaim that term in order to shed light on the

negative effects of organised religion without the discrimination of the individual practitioner.

### **Article 3 - Commitment to Inclusivity**

1. UTSAP is open to all students, regardless of identity such as religion, race, ethnicity, gender, sex, disability, age, financial status etc. who share our common love and curiosity for knowledge. UTSAP seeks to provide an inclusive space for a diverse array of practitioners and seekers and will not tolerate bigotry or discriminatory behaviour or teachings from any of its members, associates, or speakers. UTSAP seeks to listen to people's lived experience, personal practice, and unverified gnosis. UTSAP seeks to be a positive space for women, LGBTQI2S people, and people of all ethnic or racial backgrounds.

### **Article 4 - Land Acknowledgement**

1. UTSAP recognizes that the University of Toronto is located on the traditional lands of many indigenous nations, including the Huron-Wendat, Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee confederacy. UTSAP seeks to have an active and positive relationship with indigenous members of the U of T community, in order to foster solidarity and understanding. We welcome indigenous community members and teachers as members and speakers, and look to First Nations House, indigenous student groups and indigenous elders on campus and in the community as guides to traditional indigenous knowledge and the current political context. UTSAP recognizes the Indigenous ethics towards nature and strives to learn from Indigenous experts.

### **Article 5 - Student Code of Conduct**

1. UTSAP adheres to the University of Toronto's Student Code of Conduct.

### **Article 6 - Membership & Membership Rights**

1. The group shall maintain a list of group members. UTSAP will maintain an active list of UofT community members but given that widespread discrimination and misunderstanding of pagan spirituality and adversarial philosophy persists, names of members will only be revealed to university administration or the public with their explicit permission.
2. There will be no required membership fee, though members may be invited to donate or pay towards costs for particular events on an as need basis.
3. Voting membership is open to all and only registered students of the University of Toronto, regardless of identity.
4. Non-voting membership is open to University of Toronto staff, faculty, alumni, and non-University of Toronto persons. Members must submit their fullname and email.
5. All voting members have the right to
  - a. Attend general meetings
  - b. Cast votes at general meetings
  - c. Stand for election
  - d. Cast votes in group elections, referendums, and constitution amendments.
6. Non-voting members do not have the rights given to voting members mentioned in Article 3

### **Article 7 - Executive Committee**

1. The term for all positions on the Executive Committee is from May 1st to April 30th.

2. The Executive Committee will comprise three to four voting members, of which must be registered students of the University of Toronto.
3. Only members of the Executive Committee are permitted to serve as officer, financial or signing authority, or primary/secondary contact.

### **Article 8 - Executive List and Duties**

1. The executive committee shall be comprised of four (4) elected officers, who will carry individual responsibilities but work together in a collective manner. These include: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer.
  
2. *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
  - Preside overboard meetings as well as general meetings
  - Ensure transition of office to the future Executives
  - Additional responsibilities may include: Sourcing and coordinating guest speakers; liaising with other spirituality/faith groups.
  
3. *The Vice-President shall:*
  - Assume duties of the President in their absence
  - Oversee the various committees
  - Ensure that all the activities of the club meet regulations and policies of the University of Toronto
  - Coordinate organisational recruitment efforts
  - Additional responsibilities may include: Sourcing and coordinating guest speakers; liaising with other spirituality/faith groups.
  
4. *The Secretary shall:*
  - Make a list of all registered members
  - Maintain the web sites and member contact list
  - Record notes and motions for meetings
  - Notify all members of meetings
  - Handle official correspondence of the organization Additional responsibilities may include: Manage social media; prepare promotional materials.
  - In the event of an absence of a treasurer, the secretary role will be combined with the treasurer to become secretary-treasurer, and shall take the treasurer's responsibilities alongside the secretary's responsibilities .
  
5. *The Treasurer 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

- Additional responsibilities may include: Determining costs for particular events, materials or activities to be undertaken by the group
  - In the event of an absence of a secretary, the secretary role will be combined with secretary to become secretary-treasurer, and shall take the secretary' responsibilities alongside treasurer's responsibilities..
6. 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.

### **Article 9 - Elections**

1. All voting positions on the Executive Committee shall be filled through an annual election.
2. All voting group members shall be eligible to seek nomination to and cast a ballot for each voting position.
3. Non-voting group members shall not be eligible to cast a ballot for any elected position.
4. The nominee winning the plurality of votes cast in the election for each position shall be deemed the winner.
5. On the condition that multiple candidates are to be elected for a single position, the nominees winning the largest share of the votes cast shall be deemed the winners until all positions are filled.
6. The elections must be held in a non-biased manner.
7. No individual who is seeking election may participate in planning or administering the election.
8. For all unfilled positions, the remaining officers will share the duties and responsibilities until someone can be found to fulfill the positions(s) through a by-election and vote of simple majority (50% + 1)
9. The executive committee shall strike the Elections Committee and appoint one (1) Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and two (2) Scrutinizers from the general members on the committee to conduct and hold elections in March. All members of the Elections 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.
10. Candidates have to be members in good standing (GPA 1.5 or higher) and be part of the group for at least one month prior to the nomination period
11. The CRO shall select three (3) election dates before March 30th 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.
12. The CRO and Scrutinizers shall provide each U of T member with a paper ballot on the voting dates and ask the member to place their ballot in an enclosed box.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. Registered U of T members may not vote by proxy.
16. Non-U of T members may not nominate or vote in elections.

### **Article 7 - Finances**

1. The Treasurer shall keep an active record of income and expenses
2. The Treasurer shall present the group's updates on the group's financial position at annual general meetings.
3. The Executive Committee must approve all expenditures over \$100.00 through a majority vote at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
4. The group may not engage in activities that are essentially commercial in nature.
5. The group will not have as a major activity a function that makes it an on-campus chapter of a commercial organization.
6. The group will not provide services and goods at a profit when that profit is used for purposes other than those of the group.
7. The group will not pay salaries to any of its officers.

#### **Article 8 - Meetings**

1. The Executive Committee shall meet monthly. The quorum for Executive Committee meetings shall be 50%+1 of the voting members of the Executive Committee.
2. The group shall hold general meetings at least twice per year to provide the general membership an opportunity to review the group's annual activity plan, financial health, and propose or vote on constitutional amendments.
3. The Executive Committee must announce the date of a general meeting to the general membership at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting.
4. Motions will require 2/3 majority of registered members in attendance for vote to be cast. The motion with the most votes will be passed.

#### **Article Nine - Termination of Membership**

1. The Executive Committee may revoke the membership of 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.
2. A vote to revoke membership must be held at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
3. A two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee is required to approve any motion to revoke membership.
4. Any member facing removal shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Executive Committee to the general membership.
5. In the case of an appeal, a simple majority vote at a meeting of the general membership shall be required to sustain the revocation of membership.
6. Following a termination of membership, the member will be removed from the club's membership and will lose any privileges associated with being a member of the club.
7. Executive Committee members are subject to the same termination of membership process as general members.
8. There will be a zero-tolerance for sexual harassment, violence and hate speech. It is grounds to revoke membership.
9. There will be zero-tolerance for vandalism and ritual abuse. It is grounds to revoke membership.
10. There will be zero-tolerance for aggressive recruitment. It is grounds to revoke membership.

#### **Article 10 - Amendments**

1. All constitutional amendments shall require a 2/3 majority vote to be passed at a general meeting.
2. All voting members may propose and vote on amendments to the constitution.
3. The Executive Committee shall submit the revised constitution to staff in the Division of Student Life at the University of Toronto within two (2) weeks.

4. Amendments to the constitution shall take effect only once the revised constitution has been approved by staff in the Division of Student Life at the University of Toronto.