

# *Debate Club Constitution*

## **Article I: Name**

The official name of the club is

- “Debate Club”
- “UTMDC”

## **Article II: Purpose**

1 Offering a competitive platform for students of all discipline to practice useful skills and techniques

1.2 Officially represent the diversity of student’s opinions, views, and beliefs;

1.3. Organize and promote Debate/Dialogue-based Events at the Mississauga Campus of the University.

1.4. Help to achieve the common interests of the students via the use of discussions and debates.

1.5. Service to the Community at large via the use of discussions;

2. The club shall not discriminate regardless of race, religion, gender, gender identity, academic inclination, age, sexual orientation, sexual identity, or political views. This non-exclusionary policy is all-encompassing and reflects on every aspect of the club.

## **Article III: Membership**

1 Membership is open to all the University of Toronto members (students, staff, faculty, alumni).

1.2 U of T members are permitted to run, nominate, and vote in elections and constitutional amendments. Members must register with a designated executive or through an online portal by submitting their full name and a valid UofT email address.

1.3 There is no membership fee. However this may be subject to change.

1.4 For recognition by the University of Toronto Mississauga Students’ Union (UTMSU), the group must maintain a minimum of 25 members, a total of 51% of members are UTSMU members. The group must also keep recognition from the Centre

for Student Engagement. These requirements are subject to change and should be checked with UTMSU annually to ensure qualifications are met.

#### **Article IV: Executives**

The University of Toronto Debate Club is comprised of 4 executive roles with each one having the right to hire their own associate/s. The task of planning and executing club events is undertaken by ALL executives. The 4 are executive roles:

1. **President** – Responsible for overseeing the group’s practice and chief of decision-making; primary contact for the group; offer assistance with all matters of the club
2. **Vice President** – Alongside the President, responsible for overseeing the group’s practice and chief of decision-making; secondary contact for the group; offer assistance with all matters of the club
  - a. **General Associates (3)** – Assist the executive team in coordinating and managing the execution of debates. Work closely with fellow associates to facilitate effective communication and collaboration. Take responsibility for general tasks such as room and table bookings as well as room set up.
3. **VP Marketing** – Managing the club's social media account; handling all promotional matters and club merchandise.
  - a. **Marketing Associate:** Enhancing social media presence, assisting with all needs of VP Marketing
4. **VP Communications (Internal)** – Responsible for internal and external communications within the group and beyond; communicating with outside parties; replying to club emails; chief of human resources.
5. **VP Finance** – responsible for handling financial resources and cash flow; keeping records of receipts, finances, and spending and designing budgets in accordance with the President

The task of planning and executing club events is undertaken by ALL executives

#### **Article V: Meetings**

1 We will hold two opening meetings for general members at the beginning of each semester (Sept 9th, and Jan 17th).

1.2 We will hold at least one debate event for our general members every month.

**1.3** Executives will meet every month at a location on a date and time set in advance by either the President or the VP of Events or Marketing

## **Article VI: Elections**

Campus Groups must follow set election dates and procedures, including the procedure of nomination, majority vote and eligibility of vote. Students may create additional positions in September, particularly for first-year students in an effort to encourage first-year student involvement. If election procedures are deemed to be unfair by reasonable standards by the Clubs Committee or the Academic Societies Affairs Committee, these results will be subject to a petition by a member and re-election will be held under the supervision of the UTMSU Campus Groups Coordinator.

The University of Toronto Mississauga Debate Club election process abides by the following principles:

Election Procedures:

**1** The University of Toronto Debate Club election will be held in the winter semester each year, abiding by the timeline set by the UTMSU

**1.2** A Chief Returning Officer (CRO) will be appointed to supervise the elections. The CRO must be an unbiased third party to the election and must be approved by the club executives and the Campus Groups Coordinator. ***The CRO must not be running for a position on the incoming executive team.***

**1.3** The decision regarding the UTMDC's involvement in elections will be made in March. The club will have the option to either continue with the existing executives, execute hiring for the executive positions, or follow the election format

**1.4** Elections must be open to all interested candidates who are UTMSU-registered members of the group.

**1.5** President and Vice Presidents role will be overseen by the President

Election Timeline

**1** Advertising Period: Advertising for elections is required and is to take place for a minimum of one week. Mass emails should be sent to all UTMSU registered members of the group

**1.2 Nomination Period:** All members who are interested in running for an executive position are able to self-nominate during this time. This will be overseen and managed by the CRO.

**1.3 All Candidates Meeting:** A meeting with all the candidates must be held to go over the election rules. This meeting is mandatory for all future candidates, and if unable to attend, they must send a representative.

**1.4 Campaign Period:** During this time, candidates are able to campaign themselves to the Campus Groups' membership.

**1.5 Voting Period:** Registered UTMSU members can vote for their incoming executives during this time. The CRO will organize the voting platform.

#### Election Policies

- Any complaints that arise during the course of elections, or as a result of elections must be brought to the attention of the Campus Groups Coordinator in a written format within 72 hours of the election.
- The Clubs Committee and ASAC withhold the right to nullify any group's election results if evidence of gross misconduct has been found in the operation of the election.
- Non-occurrence of elections will result in the immediate effect of cancellation of a group's status.
- Non-submission of election results will result in later loss of group recognition status through the Club's Committee or ASAC. If undemocratic election procedures are suspected, the election results or even the group status may be put forward to the Clubs Committee/ASAC by the VP Campus Life or VP University Affairs.

#### **Article VII: Finances**

1. The fund that are allocated for this club through funding and sponsorships will be spent purely on the advancements of the club, such as event supplies, food and drink, marketing etc

**1.2** The VP Finance and their associates (if applicable) will be responsible for keeping a record of all expenses (receipts and invoices).

**1.3** The VP Finance will be one of the signing authorities for the club bank account

## **Article VII: Removal from office**

**1** Removal from any position on the University of Toronto Debate Club can be done at any time if the matter requires it and that will be determined by UTMSU. UTMDC does not tolerate any abuse, harassment, sexual harassment, discrimination or any type of hate (refer to UTMSU's Procedural Policies).

**1.2** The UTMSU will conduct an investigation and notify the individual of sanctions.

**1.3** Such sanctions could be but aren't limited to:

- Loss of Privileges
- Removal from club social media
- Ban from all future club events

If you need to file a formal complaint with the UTMSU, please send a written notice to the Campus Groups Coordinator.

## **Article VIII: Amendments to the Constitution**

**1** Any registered U of T members may suggest and vote on amendments to this constitution. The Executive Committee will administer the final decision process of having amendments

**1.2** Constitutional amendments shall require a 2/3 or 75% majority to be passed at Annual General Meetings by registered U of T members in attendance.

**1.3** 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.