

Constitution of “Spicy Vindaloos Dance Group”



1. Name

The official name of this recognized student group is “Spicy Vindaloos Dance Group”

The acronym or abbreviation of this group is “SV”.

2. Purpose and Objectives:

Spicy Vindaloos is a Bollywood, Indo-fusion, and Indian Classical dance team, founded to bring together people of all backgrounds to share in an appreciation and celebration of Indian culture through dance and music. Dance presents students with the opportunity to destress from the pressures of university by engaging in a physical, social, and creative activity and contribute to a positive and well-rounded campus life experience.

The group was founded on the belief that a solid work ethic, commitment, and teamwork are just as important as talent - as such, we strive to create an inclusive team for individuals with all levels of dance experience, including those who may not have any performance background but have a keen interest in dance and a willingness to step outside one’s comfort zone. The group aims to be a positive, supportive environment in which members can learn from and with one another while working towards a common goal.

The team’s vision is to create unique and extravagant performances that engage members of the community. Described as “a Bollywood film in ten minutes”, a Spicy Vindaloos performance captures and portrays the drama and flair of Indian cinema to audiences composed of Bollywood enthusiasts and newcomers alike. In preparing for this piece, members benefit from vigorous fitness training, frequent socialization, team-building activities, and creative collaboration.

The special feature of this organization caters to interdisciplinary connections through interest in technology, wearable media, sound design, and community engagement.

Above all, the Spicy Vindaloos team is about fostering connections across disciplines and levels of study - in past years, we have connected undergraduate students, graduate students, and alumni from various fields and backgrounds. With each year, the group has grown both in size and ambition, from performing at the university to city-wide cultural events. In the coming years, the group plans to proactively engage with the university community at large through hosting music and dance showcase events and beginner Bollywood dance workshops.

3. Membership

Executive members with voting privileges shall be currently registered students of the University of Toronto.

Staff, faculty, or alumni members may hold non-voting executive positions. These nonvoting executive positions shall be limited to a maximum of one (1) or ten per cent (10%) of the full executive body, whichever is greatest. Persons holding these nonvoting executive positions cannot serve as an officer (including financial signing officer) or contact person of the Student Group.

Non-voting membership may be extended to interested staff, faculty, and alumni, or persons from outside the University, without restriction on those grounds outlined by the Ontario Human Rights Code's Prohibited Grounds of Discrimination. 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.

There is no membership fee for this group. There will be no fees other than associated material costs that will come up on a case-by-case basis. The organization will aim to make the events as accessible as possible in nature by acquiring funding from the university and outside sponsors whenever possible. The goal is for all events to either be subsidized or free of cost by the group's acquired resources.

4. Executive List and Duties

The President: This individual will oversee the operations, management and success of the group. They shall be the spokesperson for the group. They will preside over general meetings. They will ensure roles and responsibilities are outlined to the executive team but fluid in nature, meaning they will serve to provide opportunities for creativity, innovation, and community engagement with the team. The individual will maintain cohesion and collaboration amongst members of the team. This individual will directly focus on the external image and public presence of SV. The individual must enjoy working with diverse

student populations and presenting in front of large crowds. Their public speaking and communication skills will serve to be a crucial asset to the team. Lastly, they will ensure an appropriate transition of office to the future executives meeting is held towards the end of the rotational cycle.

Vice-President of Finance and Sponsorship: This individual will act as a liaison between financial documents/funding requirements between the university and community sponsors. During the course of the academic term, it will be in their responsibility to ensure all documentation is received and delivered in a timely manner.

Vice-President of Media & Communications: This individual will be responsible for managing the team's social media accounts and external communications. They will work very closely with the committee head to ensure SV's online presence is optimized to its fullest potential. They will also work very closely with the President and VPs of Event Coordination for community outreach. This individual will be responsible for the digital content, photography and videography materials of the group.

Vice-President of Event Coordination: This individual will be responsible for researching open and accessible community events across the universities, Toronto, the Greater Toronto area, and other spaces in the community. In terms of the legal scope, the incumbent will further research by-laws or regulations pertaining to patents, rules, and regulations the organization must abide by.

Alumni Representative: This individual will be responsible for managing the group's relations, involvement and engagement with previous students/members of the group and provide the team with valuable guidance and historical insight in relation to the group's operations and vision. They shall also provide a medium through which alumni can contribute and be part of the group, and assist in event promotion and outreach to alumni.

Executive team members are required to physically attend all meetings unless unforeseeable circumstances arise where they must be absent. Circumstances will be taken into consideration on a case-by-case basis. Events and availability will be designed on a case-by-case basis and dependent on academic demands/work responsibilities. The inclusive and accessible nature of the club is meant to be extended to the teammates in encouraging creativity, collaboration, and growth.

Termination of Executives or General Members:

Any member of the committee who commits an act negatively affecting the interests of the organization and/or 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 his/her actions. A vote will be held at an executive meeting, and a two-thirds majority vote of the current executives present in favor 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, and the majority vote of the general membership will have the final say on the matter. The member will be removed from SV's membership and will lose any privileges associated with being a member of the organization.

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 to the group. However, in the executive impeachment process, the executive majority must have the right to explain their rationale in depth to the general members if the repeal process was to take effect.

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 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.

The CRO Returning Officer shall accept nominations only from group members that are registered U of T students for voting positions, and staff, faculty, or alumni members for non-voting 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 August 3^{1st} 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 voting U of T registered student with a paper ballot on the voting dates and ask the student to place their ballot in an enclosed box.

In preparation for a tie, the CRO shall select a U of T registered student 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 U of T students may not vote by proxy. Non-registered students may not nominate or vote in elections.

The term of executive positions shall be from November 1st to October 31st.

6. Finances

The Vice-Presidents of Finance and Sponsorship shall keep records of all income and expenses and are responsible for being kept up to date on all financial affairs concerning the organization. The Financial Officers shall present the group's financial status at annual general meetings. The executive committee will vote on expenditures exceeding \$100.00 by majority vote.

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

The group shall hold general meetings at least twice per year, i.e. once per academic term.

The Executive Committee will announce these dates two (2) weeks prior to holding the meetings. These meetings are intended to go over the group's annual activity plan, financial health and propose or vote on constitutional amendments, if any. Motions will require 2/3 of registered members in attendance for the vote to be cast. The motion with the most voters will be passed.

The executive committee shall meet on a bi-weekly basis where date and times are to be set by the executive. The quorum of executive meetings shall be 50%+1 of executives.

8. Amendments

Any registered U of T members may propose and vote on amendments to this constitution. The Executive Committee will administer the process 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.